

Special offer of the Wesleyan!!

The WESLEYAN will be sent from the 1st of October, till the 31st Dec., 1877 for one subscription—Two Dollars. This takes in the General Conference Year, during which much connexional interest is sure to be awakened.

CHRISTIAN MIRRORS.

Does it ever occur to Christians that their spirit, their dispositions, are reflected in many ways and at sundry times, from week to week? They may not behold themselves as in a glass;

"A scandalous maintenance," says Matthew Henry, "makes a scandalous ministry." That is one mirror. When we find a people content to hear the gospel, to receive baptism, to sit down at the Lord's Supper, to ask respectable burial for their dead, and yet allow their minister to toil on a contracted salary, perhaps paid only in part, we say at once—Here are pinched, mean features reflected—like people, like priest."

Here, on the other hand, is a Presbyterian Church in Halifax, issuing its annual report, and modestly stating that its collections are at the rate of \$81.43 per Sabbath. Yet they "have no pew rents or subscription papers in this church"—all is done by spontaneous, loving liberality—a people educated to give.

By request Bro. Harris made a statement concerning his change of views. It appears that he has come to believe in the absolute "final perseverance of the saints," and in "particular election," &c. After hearing him he was voted a letter of dismissal according to his request.

It is generally supposed that the Free Baptists differ from Baptists proper only on the subject of close communion. They also differ in doctrine, as will be observed, by the fact that Mr. Harris has gone from Armenianism to Calvinism.

This man probably worshipped over the Sabbath occasionally in retired districts, for great thinkers love solitude. He saw with pain the country curate rising in his place to engage in holy work, while the wandering eye, the unsteady thread of thought, betrayed that something was astray.

The following resolution was moved:—Resolved,—1st. That this Conference do approve of the plan, as proposed last year for the endowment of a Free Baptist Theological chair, in connection with the University of New Brunswick.

A resolution to secure affiliation with the N. Brunswick University failed by a narrow majority; but the signs are hopeful. The "Intelligencer" says on this subject:—The following resolution was moved:—Resolved,—1st. That this Conference do approve of the plan, as proposed last year for the endowment of a Free Baptist Theological chair, in connection with the University of New Brunswick.

NEW BRUNSWICK FREE BAPTIST CONVENTION.—Several good practical conclusions were reached at this gathering recently held in Sussex. The Free Baptists of New Brunswick seem to be making rapid strides in favour of an educated ministry.

It is impossible to do them justice in a brief report. They did not urge necessity of education, that is granted by every body, but they urged that the denomination do something without delay to provide for the thorough training of the young men who are to enter the ministry.

There has been no little honest prejudice among the senior members of the body on this subject; we hail equally with the "Intelligencer" this dawning of a better day.

One minister resigned. His reasons are thus stated:—By request Bro. Harris made a statement concerning his change of views. It appears that he has come to believe in the absolute "final perseverance of the saints," and in "particular election," &c.

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The Convention was very firm and positive as it always is on the temperance question. Its resolutions are worth repeating:—

Pro. Foster, from the Committee on Temperance submitted the following report:—

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to present the following report:—1. We re-affirm all the previous strong resolutions passed by this Conference deprecating the use of and traffic in intoxicating liquors, and sympathizing with the prominent means now in use for lessening the evil's resulting therefrom.

2. We affirm the necessary and natural connection between moral suasion and legal enactment in the suppression of the liquor traffic, and pledge our moral support to all societies whose design is to effect this object.

3. We recommend that our Sabbath schools be interested as much as possible in the matter of temperance; that Temperance Pledges and Rolls of Honour be kept in stock by the Secretary of Conference for the use of Sabbath schools, and that S. S. Superintendents be requested to introduce these into their schools.

4. That the churches be requested to, as far as possible use their collective influence in favour of the Temperance Reformation, and by sermons, prayer-meetings and public Gospel temperance exercises throw open and pronounced influence on the side of right.

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The following resolution was moved:—Resolved,—1st. That this Conference do approve of the plan, as proposed last year for the endowment of a Free Baptist Theological chair, in connection with the University of New Brunswick.

2nd. And does hereby hand this plan over to the Free Baptist Education Society, recommending it to endeavour to work up the proposed endowment.

The resolution gave rise to such a discussion as we never before listened to in Conference,—a discussion highly creditable to all who had part in it. We wish we could report the speeches made during the nearly seven hours occupied in the consideration of the resolution. The vote being taken there were,—yeas, 28; nays 32. It was not thought by the friends of the proposed scheme that it would carry, so the result was not by any means disappointing. Indeed, the vote was considerably better than they had dared to hope at first. The heaven is working. By and by the whole lump will be leavened.

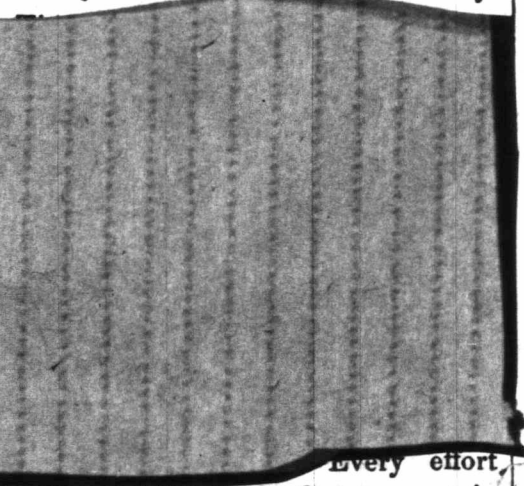
A SECOND FIRE-SCOURGE IN ST. JOHN.

Public sympathy for the 20,000 persons who were rendered homeless by fire in the chief city of New Brunswick had scarcely subsided, when intelligence is flashed over the wires that Portland—distinct as a corporation, but essentially a part of St. John city—has been swept by the same fierce element. On Friday morning of last week, before the population had risen to collect their thoughts in presence of a new surprise, the fire was upon them, leaping over every obstruction, and devastating as it went. The results are briefly told. We quote from the "Telegraph."

A careful estimate places the number of houses burned, including about an equal number of stores, at 175; and in the spring, when the assessors books were made up, the burnt district contained 320 families. The great fire of June last, however, doubled the population of that particular district of Portland, and persons not given to exaggerate put the number of families burnt out at 450. This estimate, giving 5 as the average number of persons turned out of doors by last night's fire at 2,250, all of whom will have to be provided with shelter in this already over-crowded city.

Hard indeed is the lot of those who, having been burnt out in the great fire in the city, and losing all their household goods by that untoward event, have again been turned into the street by the flames in Portland, where they had their little remnant of property destroyed. Other residents of Portland have had all swept away, and could not be in a worse position.

Our church and parsonage are among the ruins. The energetic pastor, who had lent all his enthusiasm to the work of collecting for his brethren in St. John, is now himself homeless and his people smitten by the blast. This says all that it is needful to say.



Every effort should now be put forth to ascertain whether, as many suspect, a really communistic fraternity exists amongst us, and form some conjecture as to the probable consequences which are to follow, should life and property be sub-

jected to so much wicked design. Who are the parties, and what are their motives, thus aiming at the destruction of our homes and happiness?

As to the misfortune itself, there can be but one response on the part of those who have the means. Portland must have help—must have it generously and right speedily—for winter in North America hears no pleadings, does not relent at the uplifted hands, nor delay at the voice of entreaty. And in the front rank in the army of benevolence must march the churches. God, who has entrusted us with money, now calls for a portion of it. We cannot refuse. Stored food would mould and decay—hoarded gold would corrupt and crumble if refused in the face of such a cry.

We quote from Thursday's "Telegraph":—

The congregation of the Portland Methodist church met for worship in Zion Church at three o'clock p. m. yesterday. The number present was very large under the circumstances. Rev. Mr. Teed conducted the service. He said that for twenty-one years last July he had been preaching, but had never stood before an audience with such feelings as he did then, and that he had never experienced such feelings in his life before. We could sympathize with one another. The preacher could sympathize with the congregation, and he was sure the congregation sympathized with him. He said they would not have been together but for the kindness and activity of Robert Reed, Esq., who came to them after the church succumbed to the flames and offered them the use of Zion's Church, and then endeavoured to make it known that the congregation would meet there for worship. He could not be expected to say much then, as he had been deprived of sleep for two nights, and had worked very hard to save his goods. He had thought of gathering some facts concerning the history of the church and giving them to the congregation, but owing to the confusion and shortness of time in which to prepare he had not been able. He would, however, endeavor to speak a few appropriate words on the words contained in the 23rd verse of the 8th chapter of Romans: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose."

Who is JOSEPH COOK? The great lecturer would not feel wonderfully complimented by an incident which occurred a few days ago in a Halifax printing office. An editor down stairs had been reading proof of an article headed—"Who is Joseph Cook." Putting his mouth to the speaking tube, he called up stairs—"Send down the copy." A boy heard the sound and called in reply—"What do you want?" "Who is Joseph Cook" shouts the editor. The boy goes off on an enquiry expedition among the printers—"Editor wants to know who is Joseph Cook." Presently the boy shouts back—"He is an old nigger up in Albe-marle Street, he stutters." The Editor's ear dropped from that tube with amazing quickness, and he was found sitting in his chair in convulsions—of laughter.

THE NOVA SCOTIA EDUCATIONAL OFFICE is now vacant. It is rumoured that there are already several applicants for the position. We submit that this is an office which ought to seek an occupant—a thorough competent man, wherever he may be obtained. And such a man is not likely to be found standing at an office door, hat in hand, waiting for admission and salary before the previous occupant is well buried. Let the situation be adorned by such gifts, and sustained by such qualifications as will make Provincial education an honour and a blessing to the land.

THE WEEK.

The following letter appeared in all the English Methodist papers which reached us by last mail. It explains itself. The subscriptions across the ocean make steady if but slow progress. Portland will now add to the necessity for help:—

TO THE EDITORS OF THE METHODIST.

My dear Sirs,—As I am leaving for home during this week, I beg to request that all cheques, &c., sent to the Mission House for the St. John Fund be made payable to Dr. Punsbun, who has kindly consented to receive them, and also that for the convenience of the Mission House, these remittances be not included with sums for other purposes in the same cheques.

Our fund has now reached the sum of \$1,528 18s. 9d., about one-fourth of the amount we hoped to obtain in England. If however, all the circuits, acting on the kind suggestion of the President, and following the example so nobly set by some already, will do for us the best they can, by collections or otherwise, and if gentlemen who sympathize with fellow-Christians in suffering, will send contributions, our fund will yet reach fair proportions.

On the part of those whom I represent I beg to tender sincere thanks for the help cannot forbear to mention the names of Dr. Punsbun, Rev. J. W. Greaves, and Rev. T. M. Albrighton, to whom I am under obligation for acts of personal courtesy and kindness, as well as for much assistance in my work. Yours sincerely, HOWARD SPRAGUE.

Private information has reached London, England, (says a telegram to the Liverpool Courier) from a person of the highest rank in Rome, that a new Pope has definitely been elected. The new Pope is said to be Cardinal Panabianco, and he was elected in pectore at a secret conclave of cardinals, summoned last week in consequence of the dangerous condition of the aged Pontiff's health. The conclave was attended by Cardinal Manning and Cardinal Cullen. According to precedent the Pontiff has informed him of the appointment, and officially requested him to resign the office of Grand Penitentiary before his accession to the chair of St. Peter, and he relinquished the office under similar circumstances. Cardinal Panabianco is a very old man, being within a year or two of seventy, but is described as being likely to continue the policy which Pope Pius has practised so long in opposition to the so called encroachments of the civil power. Pius IX. is in his 86th year.

We regret to see by P. E. Island papers that a son of Rev. F. W. Moore, of Charlottetown has met with severe injuries by falling from a tree.

PRAYER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—Oct. 28th and 29th—Sabbath and Monday—are set apart by the Honorary Secretaries of the Sunday School Union, for prayer in behalf of Sabbath schools. We regret that their circular is crowded out this week.

OBITUARY.—We regret to learn that Rev. A. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, died last Tuesday evening. He had been ill a short time. We sympathize with his family and friends in their severe loss.

The death of Mr. Edward Jost, Senior, reported in our obituary column this week, will be missed in Halifax. He was an active temperance man, a generous contributor to the funds of the Methodist Church, as well as to various benevolent objects. He built the Mission Church on Brunswick Street, now used by the Y. M. C. A. for Sabbath afternoon services. He suffered greatly during his last hours.

An immense company of mourners followed Mr. Jost's body to the grave last Sabbath afternoon. He was respected by a large number of Halifax citizens. Rev. J. V. Jost, brother, and Rev. J. G. Hennigar, brother-in-law of the deceased, were present.

By an explosion in a colliery, near Glasgow, Scotland, 400 men were overtaken, and those cut off from escape who were not immediately killed. Exploring parties worked, amid intense excitement, till it was found that no living human being remained in the mines. 20 bodies only had been recovered up to latest news. Dreadful burial this!

The designs for the handsome new Methodist church just opened at Middleton, N. S., was prepared by Messrs. Smith and Dunn of St. John, a young firm of very clever architects. The church is one of the most handsome and conveniently arranged in all Nova Scotia.

OUR OUTLOOK is very encouraging for the coming year. New subscribers come in generously from different quarters. We are looking for a very large increase of our subscription list, and will strive to meet all expectations in making the WESLEYAN what it ought to be. Will our brethren help?

ABROAD.—London, if not all England, was excited for a day, or two over a rumor that Paris was threatened with a coup d'etat—which means barricades, fury and destruction by the mob. This shows that France is considered anything but in a safe condition.

There has been a strike on one of the principal railways interfering for some time with the running of the mails. But they make short work with such disturbances across the water.

Russia has been gaining in the war, by latest accounts. One or two heavy engagements left considerable advantage with the troops of the Czar, who have thus taken courage to attempt heavier operations. There will be stirring scenes before the war is over.