

THE DAILY RECORDER.

FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

No. 3.]

TORONTO, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1874.

[Vol. III.]

Poetry.

Rejected Addresses:

OR, THE OLD DOX AND THE YOUNG DISSENTER.
(Respectfully dedicated to Dr. Peary and the Methodist
Ministry in Conference assembled.)

'Where are you going, my pretty maid?'
'I'm going to Conference, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'I am going to Conference, Sir,' she said—
'Shall I write you a letter, my pretty maid?'
'Just as it pleases you, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'Just as it pleases you, Sir,' she said—
'Shall we make one of it, my pretty maid?'
'Name your conditions, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'Name your conditions, Sir,' she said—
'How about Oxford, my pretty maid?'
'The less on't the better, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'The less on't the better, Sir,' she said—
'As 'twixt me and Coleridge, my pretty maid?'
'Of the two, Mr. Coleridge, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'Of the two, Mr. Coleridge, Sir,' she said—
'Then I've nothing to say to you my pretty maid.
Nobody asked you, Sir,' she said—
'Sir,' she said—
'Nobody asked you, Sir,' she said—Punch.

DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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Our Portrait Gallery.

THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

REV. EGERTON RYERSON, D.D., LL.D.,
"Chief Superintendent of Education by
"permission of Conference" is at length a
President of Conference, and that to a General
Conference of all the Wesleyan Metho-
dists (the two sections of them), in the
whole of British North America. Notwith-
standing his very great abilities and great
influence for the period of nearly half a
century, it had so happened, in consequence
of his important official engagements, that
he had never been a presiding officer in any
church court beyond a leader's meeting, and
even in that, not very many years. This
will be to his disadvantage, and that the
rather, because men of genius, and of a
philosophic turn of thought, such as he is,
have usually less adaptation for handling
deliberative assemblies than men who have
fewer ideas and theories of their own, and
who consequently more implicitly follow
precedent and usage, or run in the rut made
by those who have gone before. Another
difficulty of his position arises from the fact
that the machinery of this General

Conference is new, and has not yet ad-justed part to part; and moreover there is little precedent to guide so as to prevent friction. It is to be hoped that the several members of the body which elected him by such a large majority will do as little to complicate matters as possible. But we are wandering from our subject to theories.
Dr. Ryerson has an almost world-wide reputation, and requires that very little should be said of his history; indeed it has been so eventful as to require a volume to portray it, and so identified with the history of Ontario that he who knows the one must know the other. We may just repeat, in a summary form, what everybody knows, that Col. Ryerson, his father, was a U. E. Loyalist and a British officer during the Revolutionary war, settling first in New Brunswick, and then in Upper Canada, where our subject was born. Dr. R. must now be (for he has furnished us no data beyond what we ourselves know, or imagine) as old as the century, for fifty years ago, last Easter Sunday, he entered on his itinerant career, probably about the age of twenty. How changed are both he and the country since that day. We say he has changed, physically certainly he has, but we mean advanced or improved; for Egerton Ryerson was not like some preachers who are as finished and able when they begin as when they end. He was full of ideas, and had plenty of words at the commencement, but was timid, often embarrassed, and sometimes confused, wanting in deliberation, and speaking with a rapidity which almost checked his utterance. But this indicated a mind fraught with ideas and of great earnestness and energy. As a preacher he had his period of maturity when he preached often with great ability and power; but his many non-pastoral occupations and engagements of later years, joined to his increasing infirmities, have been against the maintenance of that power and finish in preaching which characterized him in the hey-day of his evangelical and pastoral career. But writing, &c., enforcement of great controlling ideas with the pen, have, since the year 1826 or '27, when he first couched his lance against the detracting assertions and arrogant claims of dominant churchmen, Scarf, James, Esq., Woodstock, Ont. Sanders, Corney, Esq., Sarnia, Ont. Savage, David, Rev., London, Ont. Seymour, J. C., Rev., Alternate.

years in the West Indies—two in Barbadoes, and two in Dominica.
The son received, at least part of his education in the public Institutions of this city, and holds medals as tokens of his proficiency. We always ascribed to him a considerable amount of classical attainments; and when young, he was known to have literary taste and aspirations, and to possess no mean poetical talents. His conversion and connection with the Wesleyan Church was in this city, in 1842. The Union then being interrupted, he was a member of the British division of Wesleyanism, among whom he began to preach, and nothing but a failure of health prevented his being a Wesleyan Minister. He was proposed to the District Meeting in 1847, and was to have gone to the Rice Lake Indian Mission, but his health failed, and he changed his labors to the West Indies, and labored in Jamaica; but failing health obliged him to retire in 1849, when he returned to Toronto, and commenced the business for which he was trained in his youth, in which he has prospered exceedingly, and has consecrated his gains to the furtherance of the cause of God. By this he is probably doing more for the interests of morality and religion than if he were in the ministry itself. We have spoken of his labors as a leader and local preacher; he is a trustee, member of various Connexional Committees, and the lay treasurer of the Missionary Society of the W. M. Church.
He once represented a constituency of this city in the Provincial Parliament. He will be found no visionary revolutionist, but the man to prosecute the practical operations of the Church with enterprise.
REV. JOHN A. WILLIAMS.
The Rev. John A. Williams, President of the London Conference, is a man of much more than common force of character and natural talents. In appearance he is sturdy, resolute-looking, with what for want of a better word, we may call a loquacious expression of countenance. He is above middle height, rather stoutly built, and crowned with a massive grey head. There is an outspoken independence about his utterances in Conference debates, that seems to indicate that he can do battle alone, if need be. And even in arguing a case, there is sometimes a defiance in his manner, that seems more adapted to vanquish than to win an opponent. As a preacher, he is distinguished by freshness and freeness of thought; but there is, not unfrequently, a depth and range in his line of thought, that are a little beyond the grasp of hearers of limited reading and thinking. Hence some men whose sermons carry far less weight of metal, may be more popular with the unthinking masses than he. But in his best moods, when he is kindled to white heat till the plastic of his thinking and reading become plastic and available, he reaches all classes, and stirs the emotions, as well as quickens the intellect. His address at the reception of candidates for the ministry, at the London Conference of 1873, will long be remembered as a noble specimen of religious eloquence, which stirred all his hearers like a battle hymn. He wields also a ready and vigorous pen, is familiar with the discipline and history of our church, and possesses good administrative abilities. He possesses but little of the tact that can flatter men to win them; and to those who only slightly know him, at times appears less conciliating in manner than a careful regard for popular favor would dictate; but beneath his Welsh quickness and apparent combativeness, he carries a kindly and tender heart, keenly alive to the finer influences of thought and feeling. We take him to be one of those men who would rather tread a rough path with a good conscience, than gain advantage by fawning on men of wealth or power. He has for many years taken a warm interest in connexional affairs, and a prominent part in the discussion of Conference questions.
Mr. Williams' life history is not without points of interest, such as often belong to those who, with little earthly guardianship, are led by an unseen hand. He is a native of Wales, born in 1817. Being deprived at an early age of parental oversight, he was consequently thrown into the whirl and din of London life, where he found ample opportunity for the development of self-reliance, and that independence of character which has since distinguished him. At the age of sixteen he came to Canada, resolving to push his chances in the new country. The first years of his Canadian life were spent in the town of Prescott. In 1836, during a season of religious interest, under the ministry of the late Rev. W. H. Williams, he began the Christian race, united with the Wesleyan Church, and found his delight in the company of the few Methodists then residing in Prescott, and in the reading of Methodist literature, to which, for the first time, he had access.
In the years immediately following his conversion he was a diligent reader of the works of Wesley, Fletcher, Clark, and Benson, and was laying up a stock of theological truth, which, in after years, he found of essential service. This habit of reading then commenced has continued with him, to which is added the habit of close and independent thinking. "Never be found without a book in your pocket; and never waste your time on poor authors, get the best book on the subject, and master it," is part of the advice given frequently by our brother to candidates for the ministry. Bro. Williams was recommended by the old Bytown Quarterly Meeting to the District Meeting; was received by the Conference in 1847; and stationed in the Hollowell circuit—Rev. A. Hurlburt, Superintendent—ordained at Brockville 1850; was elected by the Conference Chairman of the Owen Sound District in 1859, the first time the Conference appointed that office. He served also in the same office in the Brockville District from 1870 till 1873, when he was appointed to Simcoe, his present station, and took charge of Brantford District. In 1873, by a very heavy and spontaneous vote, he was nominated for the position of Co-Delegate, which office he held at the last Conference. On the organization of the London Conference he was chosen and honored with the position of its first President.
Few men are better known throughout the large portions of the country than the subject of this sketch; not only as a Wesleyan minister, but as an earnest workman in the great temperance reform, with which he has been identified for more than thirty years. Take him for all and all, there is good deal of the man about JOHN A. WILLIAMS.
SHERIFF PATRICK
Was born near this city, in which he was often a visitor to his relations in boyhood, and where he sometimes attended school. He claims to be of the Scotch branch of the ancient Patrick family. His age is sixty-four. He, like some other now among the laymen in the General Conference, spent some of his early years in the ministry of the Methodist Church, in which, had he continued, he would have taken no mediocre place. But falling voice and other circumstances, led him to enter into the business of a merchant, which he prosecuted in Prescott, about thirty years. Finding himself in secular life, on principle he declined ministerial functions, but has stood by the church he joined forty-nine years ago as a most liberal supporter, often supplying the pulpit, in the absence of the minister, as a lay-reader. He is both leader and steward at present. He was, and is, a good speaker. Four times he was returned to Parliament. A year ago, upon the accession of his, the Reform party, to power, he received the appointment of Sheriff of the two counties of Leeds and Grenville. He has been a consistent politician.
In all social and domestic relations, he is a most amiable and much loved man. He is very prepossessing in person and manners. It affords us much pleasure to see at our General Assembly.
REV. DAVID SAVAGE,
Editor of the *Evangelical Witness*, London, organ of the Methodist New Connexion Church. You may know him as a tall, blonde, interesting looking gentleman of forty-four years of age. He is a native of England, brought up among the Congregationalists, attending in childhood on the ministry of the Rev. Robert Philp, of Maberly-chapel, London. He was converted in Montreal under the ministry of the Rev. Henry Wilkes, LL.D., now Principal of the Congregational College, British North America. Moving to Upper Canada, about 1848, Mr. S. was thrown out of association with his Congregational friends, there being no church of that order within the bounds of the county on which he had lighted, (Prince Edward), where he was
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