

THE WESLEYAN FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1882.

NOTE!!

The WESLEYAN will be sent to any address during the remaining months of the year upon receipt at this office of One Dollar. Show this to your neighbor, or take advantage of the offer in behalf of some friend.

THE BOOK ROOM.

On Thursday of last week the annual meeting of the Eastern section of the Book Committee was held at the Wesleyan office. The Revs. J. McMurray, Chairman, R. Duncan, Secretary, Dr. Pickard, R. A. Temple, D. D. Currie, with Dr. Allison and the Book Steward and the Editor were present. The other four members were absent through ill-health or attendance upon other Connexional duties. Dr. Pickard's health had not permitted him to attend the meeting of the Audit Committee; he however reached town in time to take part in the general business.

Several matters of importance came under the notice of the Committee. The explicit and favorable statement of the Book Steward elicited some satisfactory comments. Copies of this statement, with any necessary explanations, will be submitted to the several Annual Conferences at the approaching seasons. A report of the Committee engaged in the preparation of the Conference Hymn and Tune Book, and some correspondence relative to the probable cost of the publication of the book, were submitted by the chairman. Conversation upon the subject was followed by the appointment of a sub-committee, to correspond with the Western section of the Book Committee and take all necessary steps to secure the publication of the Hymn and Tune Book at the earliest opportunity. The public will feel that in the amount of time expended on this work by Professor Arnold Doane and Rev. J. McMurray, to both of whom it has been a labor of love, they have a guarantee of its high musical excellence. By another resolution the Book Steward was requested to confer with the author of Vol. I. of "Methodism in Eastern British America," in order, if possible, to have the second volume published at an early date. As no notice of the resolution had been given, the author, who was present, was unable at the moment to say anything definite upon the subject, though anxious to complete a task begun some years ago.

Some time was expended in careful consideration of the affairs of the printing office. A sub-committee to whom they were referred reported, recommending that a proposed arrangement to transfer the plant, etc., to the foreman of the printing department should be carried into effect. After some conversation the report of the sub-committee was adopted and arrangements were made to complete the proposed transfer.

Our Eastern Book Room now occupies a position which enables it to compete with any similar establishments, with a fair prospect of success. To all familiar with the annual statements of former managers the one now to be published may seem to challenge less in the way of remark, but it may be regarded, we believe, as a thoroughly reliable exhibit of the financial position of the establishment. In harmonious relation with the growing Toronto Book Concern, and with a well established credit enabling the manager to purchase his stock direct from the best English and American houses at the most favorable rates, there can be no reason why all our people should not unite in supporting their denominational book-room, as well from personal advantage as from a regard to Church interests. With the present cheap rate of postage our friends in the country may easily avail themselves of the advantages of which we speak.

Particular attention is invited to the facilities of the Book Room for supplying our Sunday-schools with libraries. A catalogue is about to be issued from which intending purchasers may obtain a good idea of the large number of books on our list. It is safe to say that no establishment, even though aided by private liberality, can supply, not only the publications of our own Church which are indispensable to the library of any Methodist Sunday-school but those of the other societies and publishing houses, at rates on the

whole as advantageous. The superintendents of our Sunday-schools will do well to test the correctness of our statements.

THE IRISH TRAGEDY.

Last week the all-absorbing topic in English circles was the change in the Irish policy of the Gladstone Government. Forster, the energetic and courageous Secretary for Ireland, had resigned his position because he deemed the proposed policy in some respects unwise, and men, near and distant, were awaiting with curiosity the next act in the strangely shifting scene.

They had not long to wait. As if in grim mockery of Mr. Gladstone's "faint gleam of hope on a dark subject," and Sexton's vision of the reverse of the Irish policy as "the first step in a policy that would crown the Government with glory and produce ties of mutual interest between the two countries," the telegraph on Saturday evening flashed across the Channel the startling news that Forster's successor, Lord Cavendish, and the Assistant Secretary, Burke, had that evening been brutally assassinated in Dublin, whither they had gone on the business of the government! The commission of such a deed within a short distance of Dublin Castle, and that, too, when the Government had just permitted the leading agitators to leave the prison and resume their places in Parliament, is a tragedy that has almost struck men dumb. With the exception of the assassination of President Garfield no deed has startled the world for many years as this has done.

It might have been well if the Cabinet generally had shared the belief of Forster, who though a pronounced Liberal, deemed it unsafe to adopt the new policy without at least some pledge of loyalty from men who had been virtually guilty of the atrocities which have disgraced their country for the last two or three years. The tone assumed by the released agitators boded ill for peace when on the first day of their reappearance in Parliament they met Gladstone's intimation that the "No rent" manifesto was to be withdrawn, by the statement that such intimation was without their authority. The great majority of loyal Englishmen will read with some impatience the disavowals of complicity in the crime made in both England and America by the agitators and their friends. Of immediate connection with this crime few, perhaps, will suspect them, but none can deny that Parnell owes his position of "uncrowned king," to use Forster's words, to the very outrages which have culminated in this fearful tragedy. But for these his utterances would have fallen powerless. His sincere repentance and that of his fellows can only be believed when it has been proved by the use of all their influence in ferreting out and bringing to speedy punishment the cowardly assassins of whom the police are now in search. Even then thoughtful men will ever think of the weight which the inflammatory words of an agitator may have upon a class which takes words in the full force of their meaning.

At no period during the history of the agitation has so much wisdom been needed on the part of the Government as now. It must be remembered that millions may disapprove of what may cause a comparative few to rejoice. The brutality of thousands must be repressed by strong measures, while the evils under which hundreds of thousands of loyal and true-hearted Irishmen have long groaned must not on any account be permitted to be continued. No better guarantee could be given for a just, firm and thoroughly satisfactory policy than the re-appointment of Forster to an office from which his successor has been so violently removed. Later despatches, however, say nothing of such an appointment as probable.

Gladstone has had to learn more than one painful lesson of late. In opposition to his previously declared principles he has looked Romeward and given many of his faithful supporters an uncomfortable suspicion that "the Pope had been hired as a special constable for the Queen." It was not necessary as the Premier intimated not long since that the Pope should be well informed in relation to Ireland, and that therefore Lord Granville should send him special tidings, even though accompanied by no request. Rome has given him small help, as she always does, even when in possession of power, while his Non-conformist friends are weakened by their suspicions of a great political leader whose words, and acts in the

main as well, have been Protestant and straightforward. Just now he finds that there are men in Ireland who have outrun both the control of Rome and Parnell.

A single cheering feature is the resolution of the Conservatives to assist in the maintenance of order in Ireland. A consistent attitude at an earlier period might have prevented the recent sad tragedy.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

The Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church is fortunate in having found Chaplain McCabe for a Secretary. His wonderful map, showing by red crosses the places throughout the United States where churches have been erected by aid from the society, if a silent argument is a most effective one. Different persons are impressed by the map, and the chaplain's explanations of it, in different ways. A good colored sister, present at the Washington (colored) Conference, where his speech and song roused the people to a high pitch of enthusiasm, listened to him with great interest, gazed at his map of the Church Extension work, but departed with the conviction that he was a great humbug. She asked a minister with much earnestness, "Look here! what kind of churches is that man building for those people out West? He says that last year they built one for every day in the year, and wants us to give more money so that they can build two every day the sun rises and sets. Now a church you can begin in the morning and finish by night must be a poor shanty in my opinion—not like our church is here!" It was necessary that some one should speak up in defence of the Chaplain's reputation for veracity and make an explanation. A somewhat irreverent gentleman, seeing that Kansas was fairly covered with the crosses, remarked that it "looked as if it had the Methodist measles!" on which Zion's Herald remarks: "This is an excellent disease; and we are glad that it is at present an epidemic in the West."

The effect of a sight of the map upon ex-Vice-President Wheeler, who is not a Methodist, was even more marked. The next day the Chaplain dined with him at Malone, N. Y., and though money had not been mentioned, received at his departure a note to this effect: "Please get out of this region while I have something left. To reconcile you in some measure to going, I enclose a check to your order for \$1,000. Put the money into your frontier work in multiplying the fountains of Christian citizenship, and may God's blessing go with you, as mine does. When you get the country well 'underbrushed,' we will send out some Presbyterians and put on the finishing touches."

One of the church papers, after stating Dr. McCabe's adoption of Bishop Foster's idea that the Church militant is or should be a "royal army of invasion," which needs a royal army of givers to render the invasion successful, remarks, "This is the only way in which we can secure the West for Christ and perpetuate our free institutions in their purity."

Instinctively we turn toward our own great North West, the home of a coming nation, ay, it may be of nations! Shall it be secured for Christ? Now is the time to win it and keep it. Shall we have a Church Extension Society? Let the members of our Church everywhere, who have the money, reply. The offer to Christ, for love's sake, of that one-tenth which the Jew was compelled by law to give would soon do the work to be accomplished in the West, and in Newfoundland and in some other parts of the Provinces, without throwing any burden upon those men who more than any other have contributed to the extension of our work—the men who during the last few years have almost battled with want on our Home missions.

Once the finger of scorn was only pointed against any strictness on the part of Methodists by those who stood outside the fold. This is not wholly the case now. The temptations to conformity to the world that perplex the young Christian to-day are often presented through the agency of those whose names have stood for years on the church lists. He who would oblige himself and his household Scripture counsels against this conformity is likely to be pronounced "old-fashioned" by the men and women whom his children may quote

against him as examples. Yet he whose aim is to be able to say at Heaven's gate, "Here am I and the children thou hast given me," will do well to continue the struggle. It was Dr. James W. Alexander, the eminent Presbyterian divine, who wrote: "Observe the families which have made this passage from ancient strictness to fashionable Christianity and you will find their children, one by one, sliding away to looser forms of religion, if not to utter carelessness. More than ever," continued he, "do I feel that our families must stand in a kind, but determined opposition to the fashions of the world, breasting the waves, like the Eddystone Light-House."

A "Prize List for the Flower Show in connection with the Charles Street Sunday-school," has been laid on our table. Plants have been distributed in the school room of the church this week. All these must be sent in to the Exhibition, to be held early in September, when prizes will be awarded not only for the best culture of the plants distributed, but also for bouquets grown by the Exhibitor or gathered from the fields. Some special prizes are also offered by Mr. H. Harris, the well-known florist. This step on the part of the teachers of the school is most wise. A tiny plant, placed in the window of some tenement, has not seldom changed by degrees the character of some low street. The cultivation of a little flower plot has sometimes proved an era in a life. And how precious is the little flower in the room of the sufferer. Not long since an invalid lady of cultivated mind wrote to a friend, on receipt of a flower, "I am almost inclined to think it worth while to be sick, to receive such pleasant proofs of friends' remembrance."

The Chicago Standard condemns in strong terms the conduct of any minister who practices deception upon an orthodox congregation. Of the man guilty of such violation of justice, too often lauded to the skies by the secular press, the Standard says; "He does not believe the Scriptures are inspired; or he has no faith in the divinity of Christ, or in his death as a sin-offering; or, he believes in the sleep of the soul and in the annihilation of the wicked; or, he is a Spiritualist; or, he has a hobby about the millennium, in riding which he overrules every other question of truth and duty. Now, the question is not as to his right to hold and avow such doctrines when and where he can get people to hear him; but it is as to his right to impose himself on those who not only do not hold, but abominate such doctrines, as being one with them in faith, either for money preaching what he does not believe, or for mischief adopting this deceitful course that he may draw away disciples after him. There is, in this, such a violation of truth and honor as should lead all good people to brand the offender as a detestable hypocrite."

The Canadian Methodist Magazine for May is not surpassed in value by any previous number. We presume that all readers interested in certain questions of Church polity which are likely to be discussed at the General Conference in the autumn will instinctively turn to the article from the pen of John Macdonald, Esq., of Toronto, upon the General Superintendency. The greater number of readers, whatever their views, will regret that Mr. Macdonald has not discussed this subject at greater length. It cannot be said of it, as Abraham Lincoln once said to a person who wished to discuss with him the subject of slavery, "There is no other side," but it must be granted that Mr. Macdonald has submitted some facts which may not be easily set aside, and asked some questions that should not be carelessly answered. Other articles in the Magazine are well worth reading.

No one should neglect the counsel, "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live." Let the preparation for heaven be made, and at the same time let the arrangements for departure from earth not be neglected. No man should hold property without having provided for its disposal in case of his decease. Death will not in consequence come the sooner. The arrangements, too, should be made thoughtfully and carefully. The will of Longfellow is a case in point. It contained several errors and interlineations. These deprive several persons of intended legacies

Far more serious consequences have followed neglect to make a will at the proper time. A neighborhood has sometimes been set by the ears and the peace and prosperity of a church destroyed by a want of care in this respect on the part of some prominent citizen and church member.

The Secretary of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee, Rev. Robert Duncan, requests the publication of the following resolution adopted at the recent annual meeting of the Book Committee:

Resolved, That in view of the very satisfactory exhibit of the business of the Book Room and the Conference Office during the past year, and of the tact and judgment evinced by the editor in the management of THE WESLEYAN, after careful investigation of the several departments of the concern we gladly express our appreciation of the manner in which the Rev. S. F. Huestis, Book Steward, and Rev. T. Watson Smith, Editor, have discharged the duties of their offices.

That the thanks of this Committee be given to the auditors for the past year—Rev. J. A. Rogers and Messrs. Samuel Boreham and W. K. Angwin—for their valuable services.

The corner stone of the new Wesleyan Theological College building on Upper University Street, Montreal, was laid on Wednesday last week by the Hon. Senator Ferrier. In the course of his address Mr. Ferrier spoke of this event as the realization of an idea entertained by Methodists of Montreal some forty years ago. A number of leading ministers and laymen were present. Senator Ferrier was briefly introduced by Dr. Douglas. Addresses were also delivered on the occasion by Revs. H. F. Bland, A. Langford, and J. Lathern, Chairmen respectively of the Montreal, London and Nova Scotia Conferences, and by Principals Dawson and McVicar. The new college is affiliated with Victoria and McGill Universities.

Any young man who may be tempted to enter the liquor business as a supposed short cut to wealth should know the complexion of character borne by a large proportion of the fraternity he essays to join. He may find men in good social standing who may supply him with the death-dealing mixtures—a sad fact—but he will feel the need of heels on his boots or brass on his brow when he is told what an exchange tells us—that two thousand and four of the liquor sellers in New York city have served in different State prisons, and two thousand six hundred and forty-five in county prisons.

We have elsewhere spoken of the intended transfer of the printing department to our foreman, Mr. William Theakston, by whom the WESLEYAN is still to be printed. Mr. Theakston, having proved himself during a period of several years a faithful manager of this part of the Book Concern, now enters into the business on his own account with our best wishes for his success. He will still occupy the upper flat of the Book Room building, and hopes, and we may add deserves, a good share of public patronage.

In a recent issue of the N. Y. Christian Advocate we have a fine example of compression. Twenty-four obituary notices occupy only three columns of that paper! How was such a feat performed? To a large extent by the omission of those frequent statements which should be true of every Christian, and have therefore little interest for general readers. Probably all was said of those "souls departed" in that case, even more than was wise.

In answer to Mr. Nicolson's proposal that some one should adopt a little orphan girl in Bermuda, five letters and a telegram have been received. A home with any of the persons applying would be a blessing to this little one. The delay in the sailing of the Beta enables us to forward all these applications to Mr. Nicolson, with whom must rest the decision. Who will say that it does not pay to advertise?

An order in council on Monday divides the North West into four new Provinces: Assiniboia, containing 95,000 square miles; Saskatchewan, 114,000; Alberta, 100,000; and Athabaska, with 122,000. One hears the tread of coming nations.

Austria is the only country in Europe where open and aggressive Christian work is prohibited.

THE METHODIST CENTENNIAL.

Some interesting historical papers from the pen of J. W. Lawrence, Esq., of St. John, N. B., are being published in the St. John Daily Sun and Daily Telegraph. Did space permit we should gladly copy them, but must content ourselves with extracts. Mr. Lawrence is giving a series of facts bearing on the approaching Centennial of the arrival of the Loyalists in these Provinces. He thus writes on the

CENTENNIAL OF MARITIME METHODISM. Rev. John Lathern, president of the Nova Scotia Conference, asks: Ought not the Conference celebration to be followed by at least one memorial service in each circuit? Might not contributions from such services, and spontaneous offerings, be appropriated for some connexional monument to the memory of the venerable William Black, the apostle of Methodism?

As the cap stone of the Centenary church, St. John, was laid in 1881, the centennial of Black's first work, and will be opened for service in 1882, the year of the Conference celebration to his memory, independent of the suggestion of the president of the Conference, would it not be a noble act on the part of the "grand army of Sunday school scholars" of the Methodist Churches in the Maritime Provinces to present the Centenary Church, in 1883, a chime of nine bells, with the names, date of birth, and death of Black, Bishop, Bennett, Mann, Marsden, McColl, Bamford, Ferguson and Allison, stars in the constellation of Maritime Methodism, gaining in brightness with the passing years?

To John Ferguson, more than any other layman, the erection of the old German street chapel is due. Its corner stone was laid by Joshua Marsden, who, for several months, worked at the building with his own hands. "I never was better in body, or happier in soul, than when I worked all day at the new and preached at night in the old chapel." Before it was ready for service Marsden left for Bermuda. His successor at St. John, William Bennett, opened the new chapel on the morning of Christmas day, 1808.

In 1809 Bennett removed to Halifax, changing places with William Black, who was at St. John two years, when, at his own request, Mr. Black was placed on the list as a supernumerary. His successor was Stephen Bamford. As the first labors of Black were in New Brunswick, and the last in full charge of a circuit—it is eminently fitting a memorial to him should be there.

The corner stone of the "Old Centenary" was laid in 1838 by John Ferguson, who died at St. John, February 2nd, 1841, in his 85th year.

The "chime of bells" to the "New Centenary," will be a thank offering from the young of the Methodist Church in the Maritime Provinces to the old "Patriarchs" would be a graceful recognition of the work of the pastor of the finest of its ecclesiastical edifices, the author of "The Loyalist Idea."

The Centenary Methodist chimes, with the chimes to the Loyalists in Trinity—the two religious organizations of St. John in its first quarter of a century—should usher in the historic day, the 18th of May, 1883.

THE SACKVILLE INSTITUTIONS. We transfer also the letter in which Charles F. Allison, Esq., announced his intention to found the Academy at Sackville. From its perusal our readers will learn how thoroughly the present managers of our institutions there are in accord with the original intention of their founder, who aimed at the establishment of a school under religious auspices in which "not only the elementary but the higher branches of education" should be taught.

ST. JOHN, N. B., July 4th, 1839. REV. AND DEAR SIR:—My mind of late has been much impressed with the importance of that admonition of the wise man, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he shall not depart from it."

The establishment of schools in which pure religion is not only taught but constantly brought before the youthful mind, and represented to it as the basis and groundwork of all happiness which man is capable of enjoying here on earth, and eminently calculated to form the most perfect character, is, I think, one of the most efficient means in the order of Divine Providence, to bring about the happy result spoken of by the wise man.

It is, therefore, under this impression, connected with a persuasion of my accountability to that gracious being, whom I would ever recognize as the source of all the good that is done in the earth, that I now propose through you to the British Conference, and to the Wesleyan missionaries in the Province of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to purchase an eligible site and erect suitable buildings in Sackville, in the County of Westmoreland, for the establishment of a school of the description mentioned, in which, not only the elementary but the higher branches of education may be taught, and to be altogether under the management and control of the British Conference in connexion with the Wesleyan Missionaries in these Provinces.

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