

WESLEYAN,

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1876.

OPENING OF THE NEW METHODIST CHURCH, SACKVILLE, N.B.

Elsewhere we report, from the *Sackville Post*, the admirable Sermon preached by Dr. Douglas on Sabbath the 8th inst., in dedicating this place of worship. A heavy debt—some \$1,400—confronted the Pastor and Trustees a few days previous to the opening. After the morning sermon, and the urgent appeal by Dr. Pickard which followed, it became evident that the payment of this debt was assured. Besides, the very liberal collection of the afternoon when Rev. J. Narraway, A.M., discoursed eloquently to his old parishioners, a cheque for two hundred dollars was found on one of the plates, with a request from the donor to call on him for any balance remaining unpaid at night. Dr. Pickard was able to announce in the evening, after preaching by Rev. Robt. Duncan, President of the N. B. Conference, that the amount required had that day been supplied. This was truly admirable, as it is understood every generous response had been made by the people previously.

It would be but just to bring to public notice, as an incentive to the liberality of other communities, some of the noble contributions which signalized the freeing of this fine structure from encumbrance. But the persons interested have never desired notoriety. A church suitable for the combined purposes of the circuit and Educational Institutions, with free pews, now graces the beautiful village of Sackville. Furnished appropriately; supplied with a handsome organ, the gift of one of the congregation; equipped, as it always must be, with some of the first talent of the church for its services, here is a centre whose perpetual influence for good no one can estimate.

Rev. Joseph Hart has the credit of having launched the building scheme, and of having accomplished very much toward the present grand results. Dr. Pickard's great forte of reaching the consciences, hearts and pockets of monied men, must have come into good play in rounding off the enterprise. As an ex-pastor and an admirer of noble deeds and characters, we congratulate the Methodist Church of the Lower Provinces, for this is really an inter-provincial scheme safely accomplished.

To JUDGE MARSHALL'S LETTER we give space, not for any advantage which may accrue from noticing sceptical teachers, so much as to show the absurdities into which public men sometimes fall. To our mind the worst feature of Mr. Weston's letter (he is the Universal Minister of Halifax) has not been brought out by his critic. With most audacious inconsistency this occupant of the "Church of the Redeemer" has his little fling at D. L. Moody's discourses on Redemption. This petty antagonism to a faith which brings peace and joy for multitudes wherever Mr. Moody labours, is akin to much that we see among men who do not profess to believe in redemption at all, or assume, for their churches, the name of the Redeemer. Any day, during Anniversary Week in Boston, agents may be seen distributing infidel tracts among the crowds who throng the evangelical services, as industriously as if life depended on their zeal. We understand that Mr. Weston paid the "Citizen" twenty dollars to publish his dreary discourse. There is something supremely ludicrous in this blowing of a twenty dollar blast from an obscure pulpit, and through a political paper, against one of the first men of this or any age. We are conscious that our issue this week gives Mr. W. a better advertisement for less money. So that we can take the liberty of adding a piece of advice gratuitously:—

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor

standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." If Mr. Weston can read the signs of the times, he will see that they who are carrying the world before them are those who hold to and insist upon the doctrines of redemption by Christ Jesus and the urgent necessity why the sinner should flee to the cross for pardon. Sooner or later it comes to that with the most of mankind.

THE CENTRAL MISSIONARY BOARD.

Anticipating the fulfilment of the very wise measure adopted by the Board, of giving the public, through our General Conference organs, at an early date, an epitome of its proceedings, we may intimate to our readers a few features of the recent session which have come to our notice.

Dr. Douglas, chairman in the absence of the President of the General Conference, gave great satisfaction by his urbanity, firmness and wise administration. A most subduing, gracious influence accompanied some of the discussions; and while each representative loyally adhered to the principles he was sent there to advocate, there was a very general disposition to get into harness for broad, union purposes as soon as possible. Concessions were made all round, where local interests at all admitted. It was felt last year that sufficient time was not devoted to the details of purely missionary territory. This defect was this year remedied. No single item escaped the committee's notice. It took time and a vast degree of patience; but our Methodist public may rest satisfied that, from Japan to Labrador, our missions have been under review, in their financial bearing. Perhaps as the result of this in part and also as an effort of faith on the part of the Board, our Domestic missions are to be better fostered this year, though at the hazard of drawing on the treasury beyond even the immediate probabilities of income. When the last figure of economy had been struck, one of the Missionary Secretaries suggested that five per cent. should be deducted from all extraordinary appropriations, and those for foreign work and salaries as well, to help the Domestic missions. This recommendation would reduce the income of the Secretaries themselves by \$100. This is beautifully unselfish. Our friends East and West, will now have the stimulus of knowing that a great venture is made in dependence upon God's good favor and the Church's benevolence, to help our ministers on poor and struggling circuits. The grants, therefore, to our home work may this year be considered as more liberal than those of last.

Bermuda has been taken under the wing of the Missionary Secretaries, with an increased grant and a promise of direct attention from the Mission House. This insures to that Colony an additional laborer, and with the designation of Chaplain to the army and navy, such an appointment would command more influence for our cause there than it has ever exerted. Bermuda will of course stand connected with the Nova Scotia Conference as a missionary district.

Much discussion was created by the surplus Home Mission Funds remaining in the hands of treasurers in the Conferences of N. B. and Nova Scotia. A resolution was adopted, offering \$2000 each to the two Conferences just named, and \$1000 to Newfoundland, as a compromise of settlement. This proposal will be submitted to the Conferences interested next June.

We regret that more could not have been done in the way of furnishing strength to the central missionary meetings of the Lower Provinces during the visit of our Western brethren. With the exception of St. John, Halifax, Amherst, Sackville and Windsor, no circuits were favoured with the presence of strangers.

The next meeting of the Board will held in Brockville, Ontario.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Teed, the estimable wife of the Methodist pastor at Portland, St. John, met with a painful accident last Sabbath week. While coming out of the class-room at Sabbath-school she fell, breaking her arm in a most painful manner. The St. John board containing a notice of the accident missed coming to our office.

AN OLD FRIEND AND HIS IMPORTANT WORK MISUNDERSTOOD.

The *Guardian* of the 11th inst. has an article on the Newfoundland Conference in relation to its English Agency for ministerial probationers. It seems too bad that our brethren in this rugged mission should be held up to connexional rebuke. The *Guardian* assumes that Mr. Lawrence is entering upon what it designates "A ministerial recruiting Agency," while the fact is, that generous hearted layman had been employed for five or six years on behalf of all our Eastern Conferences in a similar way. What was thought of his services may be inferred from this, that on several occasions votes of warmest thanks were offered to him in the old Conference of E. B. America. Mr. Lawrence has sacrificed not a little time and money in this "recruiting" business; and it will pain very many of those who have admired his zeal and devotion to our American work, to find that he is the subject of an article which may be construed into censure.

It should not be inferred that Mr. Lawrence "does not look for first class men," merely because he writes to the *London Methodist*—"It is not desired to secure the services of any who have good grounds for expecting to be proposed as candidates for the ministry of our British Wesleyan Conference." Mr. Lawrence wisely guards against the possible imputation of tempting young men away from the English work. A few years ago the *Methodist Recorder* gave a strong article of advice against allowing so many promising young men to float from the English to the Colonial territory, and instanced some of our leading men who had been either candidates for their work at home or within reach of their authorities. Mr. Lawrence, in fulfilling his delicate mission, avoided the blame which this prejudice might have engendered.

The *Guardian's* second objection is taken against the propriety of calling out young men—"In view of the fact that all recruits, as soon as they are employed in the work in Canada, become claimants on the General Missionary Fund," and especially as that Fund is now straitened for means. The Editor says that it is a rather inopportune time to give "a sort of English Emigration agent full power to engage men who have no hope of being received into the work at home, to a position where they will become permanent claimants on our already overburdened missionary fund." Here is seen the impropriety of writing upon subjects without first understanding them. The draft made upon Mr. Lawrence at this juncture is partly designed to meet the necessities of Circuits which get no Grant. The Newfoundland ministry has recently suffered from deaths and removals; and it has not, like other Conferences, material to any great extent for the ministry within its own borders. Besides, the tendency has been to bring men away from Newfoundland to the West, while very few would be willing to go thence from any other of our Conferences.

Our work in Newfoundland is in hands so capable that they may well be entrusted to manage affairs which they have studied, and for which they are officially responsible. There are Committees in existence which hold the guardianship of our connexional affairs, and we seriously doubt the propriety of circulating in our newspapers throughout our Church articles which awaken unnecessary and unjust suspicions in regard to the action of Annual Conferences upon matters lying within their legitimate privilege, and calculated to shake the confidence of our people in existing institutions.

EXHIBITION AT TRURO.—As a show of fruit, vegetables, rugs, cloth, grain, cattle and horses, this was a great success. We missed the young men of the country. Only here and there is a youth left at the plough. The farmer is king to-day—yet most young men resign this crown and sceptre. They do it to go higher, while in reality most of them descend to a level of greater anxiety and less recompense. This country has vast natural resources. Our farmers are doing much in raising crops and animals; let them try their hands at keeping young men of the country from considering their vocation a disgrace.

PAYING MINISTERS.—Many readers will agree in pronouncing the treatment of which "Circuit Rider" complains in a letter we publish this week, as an extraordinary and shameful affair. Yet it is not so very uncommon an occurrence that any one need lift up his hands over it in astonishment. Nor is it quite as shameful as some might imagine. The fact is, the system of allowing ministers to live by miracle for the first nine months of each year prevails principally in farming districts. Common sense ought to suggest that the method is most fatal to the interests of a class of men who are imposed upon simply because they occupy a religious office. No day laborer, saying nothing of mechanics and men in other professions, would tolerate such treatment. One short alternative would be presented by a school teacher to his trustees—"If you withhold from me my quota of salary for nine months, I will take measures to obtain it."

Now, as to the actual claim of the man, "Circuit Rider" is a gentleman of education and refinement. In any other capacity in which the public could desire his services, as a lawyer, a teacher, or an architect, he would be cheap at \$1000 a year. What is his motive for abiding by this treatment of which he so justly complains? Not any obligations he may be under to his parishioners, surely. They have forfeited almost the last claim to his respect. He is a servant of the Lord Jesus! There is the secret.

This way of doing business is behind the age. It is out of all harmony with Methodism—a system of regularity and law. It is strangely at variance with Christianity—a religion of love and recompense. Our people do not act thus from necessity—they have the means; nor from intention—they would repel the insinuation. They do so through sheer want of thought. Let every Quarterly Board see to it that, if it does not pay its minister liberally, at least does so often enough to meet his wants, which come up in his family as often as in any other.

WINTER has been showing its teeth. Snow fell early this week in considerable quantities out West, and even as far East as Maine. With ourselves the same storm brought hail, sleet and snow to different localities, only in a lesser degree.

As a PROOF that our hard times have not quite touched bottom, it is shown that the mercantile failures of the United States, for the last three months, are 25 per cent. in excess of those for the second quarter of this year. They numbered 2,458 in the quarter just ending. Still, this may be, in commerce, our "clearing-up shower." The sun breaks out betimes, indicating the approach of fine weather.

OUR attention has been recently called to a very excellent *History of Canada* for the use of schools, compiled by the Rev. W. H. Withrow, A. M., the editor of the "Canadian Methodist Magazine," and just published by Copp, Clarke & Co., of Toronto. Mr. Withrow has been able to comprise in a volume of 320 pages all the leading events in the history of the Dominion, particularly in that of the larger Provinces. It is adapted principally to Ontario and Quebec, but the story is so briefly and yet so pleasingly told, that we can recommend it to our friends in the Maritime Provinces, who ought not only to study their own annals, but also to be familiar with the past history of every part of the Dominion.

THE MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY SERVICES in Halifax, were somewhat interrupted by bad weather. Still, the visit of our distinguished ministers from the West will long be remembered. Of Mr. Sutherland's eloquence and enthusiasm we all had most pleasing recollections; but Dr. Jeffers was entirely a stranger. We are very glad he came. Our Eastern people have heard one of the most original and powerful speakers in that Western country, abounding as it does with great orators.

To all appearance, the missionary year begins well. Inaugurated by a session of the Central Board, which a layman in the leading rank pronounced the most excellent connexional meeting

he ever attended; bringing in a hopeful condition of financial affairs for our Domestic Missions; the blessing of God very manifestly present at the earlier anniversary services—surely the church may take fresh hope and anticipate a missionary year of glorious divine baptism.

DEATH has invaded the home of Rev. T. Burton Smith. A dear, precious girl, just coming into womanhood, has been taken. But she was Christ's by early consecration, and by subsequent love and service, and has gone to be with Him. The other daughter is still sick—typhoid fever in both cases—but is improving. They dared not tell her for ten days of her sister's death.

FOR THE NEW SUBSCRIBERS OF THIS WEEK MANY THANKS.—Our friends see how easy it is when once they try. One good Brother writes, "I heard someone intended to give up the *Wesleyan* so I went in search of a substitute." He sent us *four* at one writing. Help us generously, friends. The paper can be made better according as you come to its support.

THE WAR.—Just as we feared! Nothing short of some good interposition of Providence can now prevent the European nations from being embroiled in this Turko-Servian difficulty. Occasionally a telegram comes to all, in part, the fears of readers; but gradually the cloud is seen to gather density and blackness. Russia is self-confident and tremendously equipped, having employed, ever since the fatal Sebastopol, all available genius from different countries for the advancement of her military and naval armies. Perhaps here lies the chief secret of the present threatened war.

LABRADOR LOSSES.—Twenty-five vessels and 12000 quintals of codfish, have been destroyed by storms this season on the Labrador coast. This is a severe drain upon the trade of Newfoundland, where this property was chiefly owned. Still, notwithstanding such drawbacks, coupled with the falling off in the fishery in many places, the prices of fish and oil rule so high as to make the prospect for winter not altogether gloomy.

There is little doubt that the elections in the United States will terminate in favour of the Republicans. Still this party need not be quite so sanguine after recent exhibitions of opposing strength in States where they hoped for large majorities. Were it not for the excessively democratic principles of the Democratic party, we could wish to see them again in power, as too lengthened a reign of any representative government is apt to bring ill results.

SPEAKER ANGLIN of St. John, N. B., is accused of having taken undue advantage of his position to obtain large contracts for public printing at excessive charges. His own office could not do the work, and it is affirmed he drew twenty per cent. of the profits for the mere trouble of signing certain papers. We cannot find that Mr. Anglin denies the main accusation. He offers this as his defence. We are quite sure the Dominion Government would not abet a dishonest transaction. At all events it is of the very first importance that the Speaker of the House of Commons in this young Dominion should stand pure and independent before the world. It would be no disgrace, but an evidence of thorough purpose to protect the country's interests, if such charges as those were thoroughly sifted to the bottom and a righteous judgment rendered upon their merits.

Our multiplicity of officers is delightfully confusing sometimes to outsiders. By the reports given in the papers of the annual missionary meetings held last week in St. John, there would seem to be several Presidents for some of the annual Conferences. Among the amusing statements is that of Geo. H. Starr Esq., being President of the Nova Scotia Conference. We have not come to this advanced stage yet, though doubtless, when the lay element shall have come in to our Annual Conferences, and that honoured representation will occupy our principal offices, even without the hint thus thrown out, the Nova Scotia Conference would know whom to elect.