FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1881.

THE CONNEXIONAL IDEA.

A teacher remarked the other evening, at the pleasant gathering in Brunswick Street Church, that an increased interest would have been caused by a better previous acquaintance on the part of the numerous teachers. The remark was no doubt true, and only proved the wisdom of those who proposed and successfully carried out a laudable plan.

Here were the teachers of eight Methodist Sunday-schools, within a radius of little more than two miles. Some of the scholars attending these schools make frequent removals, others of them. residing on what may seem common ground to any two of the institutions, may easily leave the one, while erroneously supposed to be at the other. It is evident, therefore, that watchfulness, and as intimate acquaintance between the teachers of the school as is possible, are needed to prevent serious loss. And vet there has been so little intercourse, that loneliness is felt, even at a social gathering! In Sunday-school work there seems to have been forgetfulness of the Connexional idea.

This fact is suggestive of anotherthe too frequent absence of the same dea from the management of the several churches in our larger towns. Straws sometimes show the wind to blow from in unhealthy quarter. One hears the pastor speak of "my church," and the people speak of their interests as thoroughly independent of those of the reat brotherhood of churches of which heirs is a single member. The growth of this spirit forebodes weakness, and under any circumstances should be reressed. A disposition to ask a blessing upon 'me and my wife, our John and is wife, us four, and no more," brings to blessing upon those outside of the ittle group, and none to those who ompose it. He is the best pastor, and hey are the best officials, who aim to stablish such a bond of attachment beween neighboring churches as shall reoress all jealousies and inspire the whole with a common and holy purose. " Of a prominent minister of the I. E. Church, South, it was said not ong since, by his biographer, "The meness of Methodism, in its spirit. enerprise and success, was a very importent idea with him, and exhibited itself permanent form." We were not at Il surprised, therefore, when told that ver been a leading idea with those interests of a valuable institution. istory of our Church.

a the neglect of some large churches to the regions beyond." The inference system of false religion. s plain. Having been helped up to nanhood, we are bound in common jusice to aid those who are now struggling s we once did. To withhold such help would be unnatural, even when not ested by the higher principles of Chrisian ethics. And yet a glance at some of our circuits, as they appear in the reorts of the aggressive schemes of our thurch, causes us to infer that they ave nearly or quite forgotten the story of their early struggles and oft-repeated ssistance. Their aim to-day is to mainain a position of independence, and neet their own expenses; any thing given in aid of the missions of the thurch is given on the ground of choice, ot principle. "Freely ye have reeived, freely give," is evidently no favorite motto with their membership. "These things ought not so to be." Is it not to be feared that that the

bsence of the Connexional spirit may he seen on a still more extended scale A minister or layman not long since said of certain circuits: "They are to all intents and purposes Congregational churches." A similar statement would be equally true if made in reference to some others. It is evident that we fail to carry out this idea of oneness as our fathers did. In the transition from boyhood to recognized manhood, we have in some sense suffered loss. We should deprecate, were such a thing possible, a repetition of the history of that period when we received help from broad, and submitted to the well-inlended but often erroneous guidance of wise men who could not always see enit that that period had an advantage reach of those to whom is denied the as an interference with "the liberties glorious work. This young Institute

Districts at that day was no figure-head. The Missionary Committee looked to him as their representative and responsible agent. It was necessary that he should know his men and that he should understand the fields in which they labored. He was the first among equals, and the recognition of that fact by his brethren and by the circuits, for whom he was the medium of communication with Britain, gave him influence and attached them to each other. To-day the relation of the Chairman to our own Missionary Board is less distinct, his responsibility less clearly defined, and therefore his influence is less powerful than it once was. Our Church has not seen fit to give to any of her leaders that amount of power which is vested in individuals elsewhere. Nor, in view of certain developments in some quarters, could we look with aught but dread upon any centralization of power in any man for a life-time, whatever advantages we seem to see in greater power given for a limited period. It would be well if the Presidents of our Annual Conferences.—the largeness of the field renders mention of the name of the President of the General Conference out of the question, perhaps-could move constantly among our circuits. As this cannot just now be done, much must devolve upon our Chairmen of Districts, if the Connexional idea is to be maintained. One of them-a junior-who wrote us last autumn, "I have already been on nearly all the circuits of my district," caught the idea of duty. Were the office thus magnified by all elected to perform its duties, votes for mere lads would cease to be given as a "lark," as is sometimes the case, and men chosen through fitness, not always from seniority, would move from circuit to circuit, as far as other duties would permit, awakening an interest in our general work and giving circuits to feel their connection with the honor and prestige | ferred to a Board of Examiners appointand real success of a Church to whom God has given a blessing second to none. Next to a revival which should light up our Conferences from centre to circumference, we need a revival of the Con- Government is about to repeat the action nexional idea. Our system is an admir-

CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

is not recognized.

We are just now perplexed with Re ports. They come from all quarters. We find no fault with their preparation; they who have to disburse public or pri- ments by the state may seem wise, or un vate funds are wise to publish their rearty co-operation in Church-work be- respecting the expenditure of funds out with a strict regard to equal rights. we thank God and take courage. ween the charges, was one of the bene- placed in the hands of some thoroughly That any college, virtually denomination- especially do we praise

two claim priority of notice, for their those institutions founded by private ben-, place during the past few years. The An unfortunate consequence of this work's-sake, and because of their inter- e.cence, and equally active with itself whole country is open to us. celine of the Connexional spirit is seen provincial character. We refer to the in educational work, seems somewhat where not a Protestant has been known Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and strange, but when the advocates of that to reside until about one year ago. I ad in general financial effort. Our cir. that for the Blind- institutions to which | institution seek a still larger amount of preached one evening last summer to nits have all received help. Many of we should lead a heathen to show him aid than that granted to the others we congregation of not less than five hund nem were for years sustained in a the practical superiority of Christianity cannot tell what to think. We can only listened with marked attention, and not arge measure by the contributions from over even the most highly developed say, in closing these remarks on a pain- the least disturbance occurred. Such a

> The twenty-third Annual Report of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb is printed by the pupils. All the Maritime Provinces are represented by these, to the number of sixty. Mr. Woodbridge, the Principal, reports favorably of their health, prompt presence at the beginning of the term, and generally cheerful obedience to the rules and regulations of the school. Our space will not permit us to transfer any of the the pupils, appended to the report. been chosen. Just after we had taken They abound in simple and touching a seat, Mr. T. B. Smith, of Hants, intisentences. One young girl tells of the fireworks at the Gardens, to which the Principal, by invitation of an alderman had taken the pupils generally. "We saw," she says, "the band of the 97th." "Alas!" we feel inclined to say, when we remember how in Bermuda and in this city the strains of that band have almost tempted us to neglect of duty,-'Alas for those who only see but cannot hear!" What a blessing that these, deprived of the hearing of the ear, can yet learn to know and feel, as well as write, in the words of one pupil, that "Jesus is our Saviour," that "he died on the cross-that he died for our sins.

"Alas." we are also inclined to say, as we take up the other Report, "for those who can hear but cannot see, to whom life is an unending darkness." Yet the report of the Superintendent, himself a sufferer, and therefore prepared by the discipline of suffering for perfect sympathy with his pupils, is a cheerful, thoughtful, able report which affords a most convincing clearly across an ocean, but we must ad- proof of the possibilities within the

Bridgman. Twenty-four pupils have been receiving instruction in the various departments during the past year. and two from Prince Edward Island; the remaining sixteen belonged to various parts of this province.

in behalf of either in any Methodist confirmation. If narrow escapes, if church during the past year.

THE COLLEGE QUESTION.

Delay in the announcement of the Government policy respecting Higher Education, is not tending toward an easy solution of a knotty question. The air is filled with rumors, some of which are evidently more than fiction based upon fact. For the continued existence of the Halifax University, there seems to be but slight ground for hope. With the cordial support of the several Denominational Colleges, the University might have done most useful work, but it is now evident that for a diversity of reasons the expected co-operation can never be secured. A Provincial Teaching University is out of the question. The effort made five years since to secure the endowment of a chair or chairs by the several denominations who had already launched their own colleges should not be repeated. The noise which then followed the entrance of the fairness of which was openly challenged, cannot be forgotten. A repetition of the attempt would cause a strong suspicion of selfish aims on the part of that body, to become a settled convic-In the meantime we see no reason to suppose that the functions of the Halifax University might not be transed and paid by the Province. Nor will any discrimination in favor

of any one denomination or college fail to raise a storm. Rumor has it that the 1875, by which one body, virtually able one, but in many quarters its value placed in possession of Dalhousie and the public funds there invested, received a larger share of aid than that given to Kings, Acadia or Mount Allison, Concerning the principle of grants to deno- removed. minational colleges we have nothing now to say. The policy of these endowthose who might otherwise quietly

PRAISEWORTHY.

On Friday last, having a few moments at our disposal—a rare occurrence -we looked in at the Provincial Assemspecimens of original composition by bly. A better hour could not well have mated his willingness to postpone the consideration of a certain subject in order that Mr. Gavton of Yarmouth might bring forward a resolution respecting the Canada Temperance Act, of which he had given notice. The resolution was a remonstrance against the recent amendment of the Senate, aiming at the destruction of an Act of the provisions of which so many counties have already availed themselves, and a request to "save the law in its entirety." The reception of the resolutions was very creditable to the House, and the rote which, in the absence of any persistent "nay," was declared unanimous, was a tribute to the power of the growing temperance sentiment of the Province. We are not so blind as to suppose that silence in all cases implies consent ; it is probable that a small minority mentally took exception to the resolution, and that a liquor-seller or two, whom perhaps temperance men have helped into the position of law-makers, regarded it which we have failed to perpetuate as light of this life. One case—that of a of the subject," but these, evidently with its dozen students—the apostolic Transfer Committees and Children's their chief rulers."

we might have done. The Chairman of lad of seventeen years of age, success- viewing the passage of the resolution as number—is evidently one of the most Funds sink into insignificance. It is a number—is evidently one of the most of life or death. fully treated, is worthy of comparison inevitable, wisely preserved silence. with the well-known case of Laura Any action liable to bring a repetition of the dose administered to a certain representative some time ago by Mr. Ford, of Queens, would be the height Six of these were from New Brunswick of rashness. In the meantime we watch with some anxiety the course to be pursued by the House of Commons in relation to the Senate's amendment. We We commend both these institutions have our fears, it must be confessed, yet to the generous assistance of our peo- we have our hopes. Possibly, as a local ple. It is not pleasant to find that not paper intimates, the prorogation may some considerable extent God has ala solitary collection has been taken up leave the action of the Senate without escape there happily be, will not stir the souls of interested temperance workers to their very depths, they will deserve defeat, terrible as the full meaning of that term may be. May Heaven the cry of many is. the work." Oh! for a tidal wave of

Since writing the above, we learn from the Morning Chronicle that at an adjourned meeting of the Halifax Presbytery on Tuesday, "it was unanimously agreed to memorialize the House of Commons against Hon. Dr. Almon's amendment to the Scott Act, passed in the Senate, as being retrograde legislation, and the fact was at once telegraphed, pending the forwarding of the written memorial."

FRENCH-CANADIAN EVANGEL-IZATION.

(For the Wesleyan.) I have long desired to communicate, through the columns of the WESLEYAN, with my brethren of the Maritime Conferences, on the great work of evangel. ization, to which we feel the Lord has the Presbyterian body alone, by means called us, and in which we have been greatly blessed; but pressing demands upon my time have hitherto prevented me. I now write, praying that the Master will bless my communication.

I am rejoiced to be able to say to my Eastern brethren, that our work in the Province of Quebec has, within the past few years, developed the same encouraging features of the general missionary work. These may be classed into three distinct periods, as follows:

1. The period of opening doors. It is not long ago when many nations were inaccessible. The cry of the Church was 'Oh! God, open the way, that the Gospel may have free course and be glorined." In a most wonderful manner God has answered the prayer. Japan opened her ports, courted the commerce of the world, sought Western civilization, and welcomed the Gospel of Christ. Our missionaries penetrate into its interior, and find the great barriers The same is true of China India, Africa and the various states of Europe. Even Rome is being regenerthought she had obliterated; and wise, as viewed from different stand- France, the land of my forefathers, is a a certain large city, in which he was ceipts and disbursements from the points, but the principle has been affirm-turning her face to the rising sun and ationed, a closer fellowship and more housetops. A little mystery or doubt ed and re-affirmed, and must be carried opening her eyes to his benign rays. cial results of his pastorate with one of honest but equally independent man al and already in receipt of an annual in- has opened the doors to the homes and This oneness of Methodism has often proved the first blow to the come of \$4,000 from Provincial funds, French Canadians. It is pleasing to should seek to retain them and then ask the true lover of his country and of his shose names are most fragrant in the Of the many reports upon our table, equal annual aid with that received by kind to note the change that has taken

In a town not very far from Montreal ful subject, that an effort in the out- thing could not have been done even side world to secure similar advantages have years ago. These have been marvellous years—vears of opening doors. at the cost of others, would scarcely be Where previously the word of God regarded with favor- to say the least. would be torn and burned, now it is Such a course must inevitably wake up bought, read and studied, and thus the way is preparing for a glorious harvest. increased racilities of inter-communica tion by means of railroads, telegraphs, etc., have done very much in bringing about this biessed dawn of a new era. What Charles Wesley foresaw and sang in his inspired verse is now realized:

'The Lord shall clear His way through all; Whate'er ob-tructs, obstructs in vain:

The vate shall rise, the mountain fall, t rooked be straight, and rugged plain.' 2. The period of calling men. As the loors opened in answer to the call of an earnest Church, and it was evident the ime had come for the Father to give to His well-beloved Son "the heathen for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession," Church began to repeat in anxious tones the prayer put into her heart by the Master himself: "Lord of the harvest, send forth labourers into Thy harvest. This prayer, like the first, has been and continues to be answered, in ways that lead many to exclaim': "We never saw it on this fashion." In every mission field God has raised up men "like unto that the House of Commons, instead of their brethren," to whom they could concurring therein," should endeavor speak in the dialect learned at their mothers' knee, speak of like mental and moral struggles, yearnings, hopes, etc., etc. No stranger or foreigner could preach so directly and powerfully to the

inner soul. But this fact -one of the most encouraging that can be mentioned—is true not only of foreign fields, but, thank God, also of our own. Within the past two or three years the number of young men converted to God, and giving good evidence of a call to the gospel ministry among us, is one of the most striking features of our work. It was this fact that put upon us the necessity of establishing the "French Methodist Institute." in which these young men might be

potent auxiliaries in the field. Already his enterprise has been greatly blessed. In my opinion—an opinion shared by all who understand the field—the Central Board of Missions of our Church never did a better thing than when it gave its sanction and assistance to this education. al movement

And now that the field is open before us, and that men are raised up who hear the Master's voice saving: "Occupy till I come :" what is the distinctive feature of the period in which we have the privilege to live ! Is it not this ? 3. The period of raising means.

ready supplied the crying need of the hour. The material wealth of this world is mostly in the hands of Christian people: to make it fully available for the purposes of His kingdom, we need a grand, wide-spread revival. Hence the cry of many is: "Oh, Lord, revive salvation to sweep through this city and land! We have already seen some foretokenings of the better, grander times in the liberal givings of our people even in the midst of a terrific financial crisis. in behalf of our Relief and Extension Fund. This movement alone is a beacon light which tells of extension in the near future more glorious and extensive than was thought of by those who wisely planned it. As soon as all the people learn the true blessedness of giving as unto the Lord." there will be no lack of means to meet the wants of our growing work. We need a church-building fund, which doubtless the next General Conference will establish. We ought to have several thousands of dollars for the erection of suitable buildings for our Institute in this city, and for the founding of affiliated schools or branches in various centres throughout the Province. We must have means for increasing our staff of missionaries until the whole field is occupied. We ought to have means to publish French tracts, hymns, books, a discipline, the lack of which is a sore drawback in our work. We confidently expect that God will answer our prayer, and that as He has opened the doors, and called the men, He will also give us the means. To Him shall all the glory

LOUIS N. BEAUDRY, French Missionary. Montreal, P.Q., March 8th., 1881.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The English correspondent of the Christian Visitor asks: "What are the Baptists of England about?" and answers his own question in these wordsthe italies are not ours:

Two letters have appeared in our Freeman and Baptist newspapers, from he pen of Mr. Samuel Watson, Solicitr for the Baptist Building Fund, the on and grandson of honored Baptists. he object of these letters being to raise a question, whether immersion is the only de of baptism? We hold our breath and wonder what next! The Editors of the Freeman, while expressing their dissent from the views of the writer, are willing to open their columns to the discussion of the subject. Then folprofessed Baptists who evidently are ot worthy of the honored name, for they speak of baptism as an "umpleasant Alas, has it come to this · Immersion (remarks Mr. Watson) is certainly right, but sprinkling and pouring are not wrong. I would not "substitute" the latter for the former, but I plead for liberty." Liberty! Is not the spread of theological latitudinariansm something startling! Baptists disusing in their denominational organs mode of baptism !

The Visitor's correspondent must have been looking over his shoulder and across the ocean at his American readers when he dashed off-these italics and heavy exclamation points. We have been under the impression that Mr. Watson's views were shared by the majority of English Baptists. Robert Hall held them, and so, to some extent, we presume, does Charles H. Spurgeon. No visitor to London receives a more cordial invitation to the Lord's table than that which reaches his ear from the pulpit of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The deacon who met us at the door, as we once availed ourselves of the privilege, only asked, "Are you a member of a Christian Church?" and, on receiving a brief but exact statement of our Church relations, handed us the usual ticket of admission. Mr. Spurgeon's preference for immersion in baptism is no doubt very strong, but his welcome to members of other Christian churches proves that, like Mr. Watson. he allows a degree of "liberality" which our Baptist friends in America are not disposed to grant.

The second number of the Missionary Outlook has been issued after some delay, in order to permit intending subscribers to hand in their names. It cannot be read without increased interest in Missions, and increased interest in Missions will react in blessing upon our home-work. Any attempt to divert means from Foreign service has invariably crippled those who planned it. Looking abroad at the work to be done. and at the too general apathy of the Church, the editor says :

Beyond cavil, the issue is momentous. In comparison with this question controversies about Conference Rights, and question of life or death; a question duestion of the one between advance and victory on the one hand, and retreat and disaster on the other. "THE ARMY THAT REMAINS IN THE ENTRENCHMENTS IS ALREADY BEATTH said Napoleon. True, and with tenfold emphasis, of the Church ! Aggressia Missionary work is at once the condition and the evidence of the Church's life. To "begin at Jerusalem and in Judea," to help those nearest our doors well; but if we stay in Judea, how shall the "witnesses ever reach "the ends of the earth ?" The Church that does nothing for the conversion of the heathen is already dying, and it ought to die, -nay, it is already dead. Wrapped in the cerements of utter selfishness, bound hand and foot in grave clothes, it only awaits the formal rites of sepulture to be hidden out of sight.

Our readers will have been interested in the letter from Rev. L. N. Beaudry found elsewhere. Mr. Beaudry, a convert from Roman Catholicism, and now pastor of the First French Methodist Church, Montreal, adds in a private note "Our work is prospering. The reading of my little book Spiritual Struggles-"is awakening fresh interest." Having read this narrative, we can most heartily recommend it. As a rule we avoid books consisting of a series of conversations-they are too often insipid. This, by Mr. Beaudry, is a marked exception; the conversational style only lends to it a deeper interest. It soon takes the reader captive, and holds him till he has perused its pages. The book is not a mere narrative : its temperate tone and clearly presented arguments, clinched with passages from Holy Scripture, render it an armory. by resort to which one may be prepared to meet all the arguments advanced in support of Roman Catholicism. Several copies ought at once to be placed in each Sunday-School library. Our young people would read it and, in these days of danger, be blessed by it.

ent judges will sometimes differ. The Christian Visitor says :- "We are a little late perhaps in mentioning the fact that the Wesleyan has improved in its mechanical make up, and also in the amount and quality of its editorial work since it came into its present management. We congratulate our brethren upon their advance, but we still hope to lead the van, though hotly and honorably pursued." At the same time the superintendent of one of our circuits congratulates us on having "succeeded in making the Wesleyan the very best religious journal in the Lower Provinces." To reconcile these views is not necessary. Both must be right. We esteem this kindly notice from one of the most vigorously-edited papers of value highly the words of our Horton correspondent. They form but one of many brotherly messages which often cheer us when at work during hours that ought to be given to rest.

How strangely even the most compet-

A very judicious effort to promote concerted action between the several Methodist Sunday-schools of this city and Dartmouth was made last week. By invitation of a committee of the schools of the North circuit a large number of teachers, with the pastors of the several churches, met on Thursday evening in the basement of Brunswick St. Church. After all had partaken of a tea-the only objection to which was its richness—the chair was taken by the Rev. R. Brecken, whose cheery speech of welcome was an appropriate preface to the good music and welltimed addresses which followed. An occasional gathering of this kind - with, perhaps, just a little more time to get acquainted, or enjoy a chat respecting the purpose of the gathering - would result in no little benefit to that branch of our work in which the large and intelligent company we there saw are engaged.

The world was startled on Monday morning by the announcement of the death of Alexander II of Russia. The Nihilists, with a persistency rarely known, have followed the unfortunate monarch until, regardless of their own safety, they have secured his destruction. As an act that destruction was a brutal murder; as a matter of policy it was a tremendous mistake. A delay of a short time would have freed the oppressed from the tyranny under which they have groaned, and left his successor at liberty to make reforms and concessions. As it is, the new monarch must begin his reign with punishment for the murderers and repression for the many. Who would be a king? Yet similar blows are dealt elsewhere. As an exchange remarks :- "It is a curious fact that the United States and Russia, two widely separated nations animated by a peculiar friendliness for each other, have now exchanged words of sympathy within a little more than fifteen years, upon the cold-blooded assassination of

Rev. S. F. R. A. Temp against too strength of a The latest " Institute basement of Rev. W. W. Side of Life presided. Rev. Thos ence to the A cently reopen
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Mr. R. B. signed by tw other resident published in or worthy the a with scammeri in the case refof the cure, fo since the patie tosh's aid.

THE DEA From the dai the following:

"On Sunday in a covered car lace about 11 a. Grand Duke A sisted of a qua Several officers panied him in s was passing a Ekaterinofsky by a man stand destrians, who E aperor. It body of the carr y and tearing av ringe. The dr box and the Co in the rear, gall t venty persons Car opened th drew his fur cle bomb was thro der his feet. and anguish fro whom were kill splinters, and t fell also. As t was seen lying wreck of the ca and blood pour in his thighs.