

Provincial Wesleyan. WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1872.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference which brought its proceedings to a close at Halifax last Friday will long be remembered with feelings of interest. On various accounts it was a memorable one.

It was signalled by the occurrence of a touching and admiring event, such as we believe never transpired during any former session of the Eastern British American Conference. A laborious and faithful minister, one of its most zealous members, died in Halifax during its deliberations.

As we had anticipated one of the most striking circumstances connected with the Conference session, was the visit with which Conference was favoured from the Rev. Drs. Bingham and Evans, the deputation ours from the chief court of our sister Church in the Upper Provinces.

Dr. Pannison stands to-day the first of Methodist orators in both hemispheres, and in the first rank of the great living orators of the English speaking race.

Dr. Evans sustained his part of the duties of his deputation with his well-remembered ability. Methodism on neither side of the Atlantic has many men of a clearer apprehension or of keener logical powers than he.

Spurred by the arches of a common faith, a common hope and a common charity, the separating depths become passable. Happy they among the dwellers on both sides whose hearts prompt them ever and anon, to cross over to exchange brotherly greetings and to learn how it fares with each other as children of the Father which is in Heaven.

concerned, the feeling of brotherhood, the gain would be great. God is love, and Christian love is Godlike, and they who possess most of that Divine quality must at once be the most happy and the most useful.

The recent Conference was memorable because of its action in reference to union between itself and the Canadian Conference. The union movement was regarded with favour by a previous Conference; but the late Conference by its appointment of a committee to act with a kindred committee, appointed by the Canadian Conference, in drafting a union constitution, took a long stride forward in furtherance of the matter.

The adoption and recommendation of the acceptance of the official boards of the respective circuits by the Conference of what it is hoped will turn out to be a much improved financial system, are facts deserving emphatic mention. The system in operation greatly needed amendment.

By no event, however, was the late Conference more distinguished than by the enthusiasm with which it dealt with the question of the endowment of Sackville Institutions. The withdrawal by the New Brunswick Legislature from those Institutions of the grant long enjoyed by them from the New Brunswick treasury imperilled their existence.

There are other topics of more or less interest connected with the late Conference proceedings, upon which we might dwell, but we forbear. Enough has been said to show that the Conference of 1872 may on many accounts be regarded as a deeply interesting one.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Editor.—In accordance with your request that I should furnish you occasionally with a letter from Ontario, I commence my work.

Did ever June give us more pleasant and enjoyable weather than this year? A winter which was severe—and terminating in the most terrible March I ever experienced, yielded late to a spring commencing very dry, but closing with abundance of rain—and a mild pleasant June, has made our landscape a perfect garden of loveliness and fertility.

The debate upon the Montreal Theological school was the most animating of any at Conference. The alumni of 'old Victoria' stood up boldly for their old school, and with their loyal hearts and their eyes upon their loyal father who was to have left England.

Our next Conference is to be held in London. It will be a long trip for the delegates from your Conference, but will afford them a fine opportunity of passing through the length of the land, and of seeing the richest soil of the continent. London is one of the smallest of our Canadian cities, containing only about 16,000 inhabitants. Yet it is large in ambition, and emulates her namesake in England, by naming her river, and its bridges, and her streets after those of London the great.

He was pleased to learn that there had been no ministerial defection. Our ministers are sound in the faith. He believed that, to our adhesion to the divine truth, was owing our prosperity in the great work in which we were engaged. He did not know a church that was not Armenian in its spirit, and he believed that the old gospel to be sufficient without addition and without retrenchment.

He spoke highly of the female college in Hamilton, whose closing exercises he had attended, and affirmed that we were ahead of England in respect of female education. As to the question of union, he thought that Dr. Pickard was very not when any address to the Canadian people was made.

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

4TH DAY, Monday.—The President took the chair at 9 o'clock, A.M., and opened the Conference with the usual religious exercises.—Rev. Jas. Taylor leading in prayer. The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The President then proceeded to examine the candidates for ordination, in their Theological views: after which, on motion, it was resolved that we pass to the order of the day, viz., the reading of addresses and reception of delegates. The address of the British Conference was then read. It was moved by Rev. H. Pope, Jr., seconded by the Rev. Mr. McMurray.

Dr. Pickard then, in a brief address, introduced Drs. Pannison and Evans. Dr. Evans presented the address from the Canadian Conference, which was read. Dr. Pannison then came forward and spoke.

He appeared here as one of our ex-Presidents. He was happy again to look upon the assembled members of the E. B. A. Conference, and to renew his acquaintance with many whom he had met upon his last visit to these Lower Provinces. He bore to this Conference the apologies and regrets of Mr. Wiseman, whom unavoidable engagements had prevented from accompanying his father was to have left England. The loteria fell upon him (Mr. Pannison).

rejoiced to know that they had not labored in vain. One-sixth of the present membership had been added during the last four years. Their ministers were of the right stamp, men who always aimed at the fifth rank. They were not satisfied with external prosperity, with social or political influence, but sought earnestly the conversion of souls.

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5TH DAY.—The Conference opened with the usual devotional exercises. The journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved. A communication from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces was read, informing the Conference that the Synod had appointed a deputation to convey their fraternal congratulations to this body, and requesting to know at what time it would be convenient for the Conference to receive them.

At the next meeting of the Conference the whole plan, as framed by the proposed joint committee, will be discussed and ratified or rejected.

Mr. Duncan thought we should move with great caution. He wished to know whether, if the plan proposed by the committee does not satisfy us, we are committed, by these resolutions, to its adoption. Dr. Pickard said: "No, certainly not."

Dr. Evans said that the Canada Conference would not submit a plan any more than we. It must be a joint production. Dr. Pickard thought that if we entered into the proposed plan, we should be united in a fraternal union, and we should be able to do more than we could do separately.

He (Dr. Pickard) declined to say much upon the subject as the principles involved had been already affirmed by the Conference. He would reserve his remarks till a future time. Many questions would occur as to the difficulties in the way of union. The difficulties in the way of union were not to any particular plan of it. He believed that Federal union would subvert the cause of Christ in British America.

He thought that we were in a position to go further than last year. And as they were about forming a General Conference of which we were expected to form a part, we should be represented upon the committee which was to prepare a constitution. He thought that this would be a consummation of Dr. Punshon's work in America.

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6 Horton—S. F. Huestis; Geo. Johnson, Superintendent. 7 Kentville—R. W. Weddall, A.B., under the superintendence of Bro. Huestis. 8 Newport. (Home Mission)—John McMurray. 9 Annapolis—Crawshaw, John A.M.

10 St. John, (Home Mission)—Henry Pope, (a); Wm. McCarty, Superintendent. 11 Charlottetown, (Home Mission)—C.M. Parker. 12 Yarmouth, (Home Mission)—J. H. Hart, Superintendent.

13 Lunenburg, (Home Mission)—John A.M. 14 Sheet Harbour, (Home Mission)—One to be sent, meanwhile to be supplied from Middle Musquodoboit. 15 Shelburne—John W. Howie.

16 St. John's—(Home Mission)—Henry Pope, (a); Wm. McCarty, Superintendent. 17 St. John's, (Home Mission)—Duncan D. Currie; Henry Daniel, Jas. R. Narraway, A.M., John Prince, Supy.

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