

ours, and I believe also yours. The Lord add unto your people at home and abroad, how many more they be a hundredfold. When I see the upturned faces of an assembly like this, and observe the beating of that unity of purpose and feeling, I am almost sorry I was not born a Methodist—but there is no help for it now—and I hope you are charitable enough to believe that I am the next best thing.

The Daily Recorder.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1869.

A WORD TO BEGIN WITH.

In presenting to the public the first number of the **WESLEYAN DAILY RECORDER**, a few words by way of preface may not be out of place.

For several years past a wish has often been expressed by both Ministers and Laymen for a more comprehensive Report of the proceedings of Conference than that usually furnished by the secular papers, or even than the synopsis furnished by our own excellent weekly. This led the Book Steward to propose the publication of a daily journal, during the Session of Conference, which should contain a full and reliable Report of the proceedings of that body, together with the most important Sermons, Addresses, &c., delivered during the Session. The project needed only to be named in order to meet with the hearty concurrence of both ministers and people, and arrangements were at once made to carry it into effect.

In some respects the **RECORDER** is not all that we expected to make it. We hoped to have commenced with a somewhat larger sheet; but on mature consideration we deemed it better to give our readers a moderately small sheet filled with interesting matter, than to give them a large one filled with advertisements. While in point of size, therefore, our journal may appear somewhat diminutive when compared with the mammoth secular dailies, yet we are convinced—and we hope to convince our readers—that, as regards the quality, at least, of its reading matter, the **RECORDER** will be able to hold its own with its larger brethren.

It will be seen at once, that the **RECORDER** is not designed to be, in the full sense of the term, a news-paper: the main object is to give a full report of Conference proceedings; still we hope to furnish such an amount of general news as will enable our readers to keep pace with the times. Should any critical reader discover occasional shortcomings in this particular, we ask him to ponder and apply the "Critics' Canon,"—

"In every book regard the author's end, since none can compass more than they intend."

The length of time during which the **RECORDER** will be published has already been announced. Commencing on the day on which the Stationing Committee holds its first meeting, it will be continued till after the close of the Conference Session,—in all, some 18 or 20 issues. Such, at least is the design of the publisher; but we must confess we can see no reason why our new Daily should not become a permanent publication. Is there any good reason why the Methodist Church in Canada, with its nearly 60,000 members and 250,000 adherents, should not support its own daily paper—a paper which, while keeping fully abreast with the times in every department of intelligence, would supply literature which might safely be introduced into every Christian household in the land? We shall see. In the meantime we trust that our good brethren, even at this late period, will do their best to extend the circulation of this first Methodist daily ever published in Canada.

A GOOD ARRANGEMENT.—A new feature has been introduced into the billeting arrangements this year. As soon as a minister is assigned to a "home," a circular is sent to him, informing him of the name and address of his host. This will be a great convenience, as it will enable the brethren on arriving in the city to proceed at once to their lodgings.

STATIONING COMMITTEE.—This important Connexion Committee is summoned to meet this evening, May 27th, in the Lecture Room of Richmond Street Church.

DISTRICT REVIEWS.—We would direct attention to the "District Reviews," two of which appear in our columns to-day. These documents are worthy of a careful perusal by all who feel interested in the progress of Methodism in this country. They will be found to contain a large amount of useful and interesting information.

BILLETING.—The work of "billeting the Preachers" is being vigorously pushed forward by the brethren in the city. The number of ministers who expect to attend the coming Conference is unusually large, and the task of providing homes for all is no easy one. Still, the generous Methodists of Toronto are coming nobly to the rescue, and there is a good prospect that places will be obtained for all who are legally sent by the District Meetings.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA COLLEGE

THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

The history of our College during the past year certainly proves that the importance of our work in the cause of education is by no means diminishing. The number of students in all departments has been 443, distributed as follows:—Faculty of Arts, 70; Faculty of Law, 40; Faculty of Medicine, 202; and Grammar School, 131.

Our friends will form some estimate of the relative importance of our work, by comparing the following figures, from the University of McGill College, Montreal, for the same year, 1868-9:—Faculty of Arts, 67; McGill College, 9; St. Francis College, 72; Faculty of Law, 58; Faculty of Medicine, 180. Total University Students, deducting six entered in two Faculties, 290; as against \$12, in our three Faculties, in preparatory work, 598; against 131 in our Grammar School,—the difference arising from the fact that they furnish Common and Grammar School education to the largest city in British North America. They embrace, also, both the Normal and Model Schools of Quebec.

The Graduating Classes of the two Universities for the present year stand as follows:—Victoria—Arts, B.A., 7; M.A., 2; Law, 17; Medicine, 61; total, 94. McGill—Arts, B.A., 9; M.A., 5; Law, 13; Medicine, 32; total, 59.

We do not present these figures as boasting over a rival, for we rejoice in the prosperity and deserved reputation of McGill College; but merely to show our friends who are putting forth so noble an effort to sustain our College, that they are supporting a work not less worthy of their efforts than that maintained by the liberal founders of McGill.

Nor do we fall behind the success of former years. The average attendance in all departments for the past fifteen years has been 308; and the average attendance in University classes proper, in the Faculty of Arts, between seventy and eighty; so that, while our Faculties of Law and Medicine are greatly increasing in numbers, the Faculty of Arts does not fall behind the average of former years.

The University examinations—both for matriculation and in the work of each year—are conducted entirely by means of written papers. To insure accuracy and impartiality, one examiner in each department is associated with the Professors; and the names of such men as the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, Dr. Sangster, and others, on this list of co-examiners, will be a guarantee to the public that the work is not slighted.

We may say, that the students of Victoria have never been subject to severer tests before winning their honors than at present, and yet very few fail to meet the requirements.

The liberality of the friends of the College is exhibited not only in many princely donations to the Endowment Fund, but also in the establishment of prizes. The bounty of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has furnished the College with a gold and a silver medal for the first and second of the graduating class in Arts. Some years since, J. G. Hodgins, Esq., LL.B., of Toronto, set a noble example by founding the "Hodgins," the "Webster," and the "Hodgins" prizes for excellence in Scripture History and in English Composition. Since that time, besides occasional prizes, the Rev. W. M. Crosby, now of the M. E. Church, U.S., has founded a prize, to be awarded annually to the first among the students sent to the College by the Conference of the W. M. Church. Last year, the "Punshon" prize was founded by Wm. Kerr, Esq., M.A., of Cobourg, to be awarded to the Valedictorian of each year. And this year, A. F. Wallbridge, Esq., M.A., of Newcastle, has founded another prize, to be awarded to the best student of the Greek Testament.

While speaking of the advantages lately accruing to the institution from the labors and liberality of its friends, we may add that, by a special effort of the alumni, and the enterprise and labour of Dr. Harris, late Professor of Natural Science, and now Professor of Chemistry, in Amherst College, Massachusetts, a collection of minerals, ores, rocks, and fossils has been made, which is perhaps unsurpassed by any in the Dominion, as a means of instruction for students. The Methodist people of Canada have already expended \$120,000 in erecting and maintaining their College; and now that they are making a noble effort to raise at least as much more, it must be gratifying to them to know that their liberal donations are accomplishing the work intended.

The Convocation exercises of the year were commenced by the Baccalaureate sermon on Sabbath evening, May 2nd, by the Rev. W. M. Punshon, M.A., President of Conference. The text chosen was I Cor. xii. 31. "Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." The subject,—the superiority of grace to any gifts of intellect, wealth, or birth,—was peculiarly appropriate to the occasion; and many a young man on the verge of life while listening to the thrilling eloquence of the preacher, must have vowed in his heart to "follow after charity," so noble, mighty, and eternal in its influence.

In the morning an excellent discourse was preached by the Rev. W. R. Parke, M.A., an old graduate, and on Monday evening the house was again completely filled to listen to Mr. Punshon's address to the students of the Huguenots.

The mornings of Tuesday and Wednesday were occupied with the Annual Meetings of the Board and Senate. The afternoon of Tuesday was occupied by the meeting and dinner of the Alumni. That of Wednesday by the Convocation and Conversation.

The annual address of the Alumni was delivered by the Rev. A. H. Rayner, M.A., on the subject, "The Relations of the Beautiful to the Good," and was characterized by the philosophical acumen, refined taste, and elegant style of a finished and able scholar. It would be useless to attempt to give a description of the enthusiasm with which the meeting pledged itself to sustain the effort now made for endowment. Though the Alumni are mostly young men, few of whom have acquired a fortune, yet they have contributed largely to the fund, and there is evidently among them a political energy which will one day be felt on behalf of a just cause.

The following is a list of officers for the coming year:—President, W. M. Punshon, M.A.; first Vice-President, J. J. MacLaren, LL.B.; second Vice-President, W. Bröuse, M.A., M.D.; Secretary, H. Hough, M.A.; Treasurer, J. W. Kerr, M.A.; Lecturer, W. Canniff, M.D.

The meeting was presided over by the retiring president, the Rev. A. Carman, M.A., president of Albert College, Belleville.

In the evening at dinner, the chair was taken by the Rev. Mr. Punshon, and, after dismissing the viands, the enthusiasm and inspiration of college days was renewed in many an eloquent and witty speech.

On Wednesday, at 2 p. m., the members of the Senate, the Alumni and graduating classes, and about one thousand visitors assembled in Victoria Hall for convocation. The chair being taken up by the President of the University, the Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., the Rev. I. B. Howard of Brockville, opened with prayer. Then followed the oration degrees and prizes as below:—Latin Oration, J. W. Ravell, of Trowbridge; Greek Oration, J. A. Clarke, of Lindsay; Valedictory Oration, J. Moore, of Peterboro'.

As the list of prizemen and graduates has been widely published, it is unnecessary to repeat it. The number of students graduated, was 93 in all.

The address to the graduating class in medicine, was delivered by Dr. Berryman, and to the class in arts, by Mr. Punshon.

In the evening, the visitors assembled from every part of the country, enjoyed themselves in social intercourse in Victoria Hall. We may say that the enterprise of the Literary Association, not only in maintaining this means of social reunion, but also, in the prizes which they offer, and in the debates and lectures which they sustain during the year, contributes not a little to the success of the College, and to the reputation of its students as able public speakers.

For the Daily Recorder.

TORONTO DISTRICT MEETING.

This Meeting was held, according to appointment on the 13th and 14th of May, in the Wesleyan church of the quiet and picturesque village of Weston. Although the District comprises only one Circuit whose territory is largely outside the bounds of the Counties of York and Peel, and extends no further on the Yonge Street line than Richmond Hill, yet when ministers, probationers, candidates, and lay delegates were all assembled, the appearance of the church was similar to what it might be on a rainy Sabbath at the usual time of public worship. Time was, and that within the memory of some who do not yet feel old enough to retire from active labour, when within the same extent of country the number of Methodist ministers was no greater than the number required to claim the blessing promised by the Master, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." The usual routine business was dispatched with vigor and interest. On this occasion, however, it was not felt by any to be mere routine, for the keen-sighted shrewdness of the Rev. W. M. Punshon, who was our Chairman, exposed so many points of interest, and the subtle and delicate humour with which he garnished many an otherwise dry detail, made the time go happily by, so that the hour of adjournment was not felt to be so great a relief, as in some such synodical assemblies it is. He seems equally at home and equally a master among the details of church business, and the intricacies of ecclesiastical arrangement, as he confessedly is in the pulpit and on the platform. His executive efficiency was illuminated by the light of a dignified affability, and Christian kindness of manner which attracts the heart as powerfully as his wide intelligence and many-sided ability wins the admiration of the intellect.

On the evening of the 13th, the District Sabbath School Convention was held in the same church. Rev. W. McFadden, of Brampton, in the chair. This being the first meeting of the kind held in Canada, excited considerable interest in the village. The Chairman introduced the Rev. W. J. Hunter, of Toronto, who read the District Report of Schools, making appropriate and interesting remarks as he proceeded.

Rev. S. Sutherland, of Yorkville, the able and enthusiastic editor of the **S. S. Banner**, gave an address explanatory of the design of the Wesleyan Sabbath School Union. His speech was clear, vigorous, comprehensive, and effective.

Questions were asked and short speeches made between the addresses mentioned; and also before the speech of the Rev. J. Bredin, who, for twenty minutes, in his own graceful and masterly style, spoke on the general aspects of Sunday-school work. Short addresses were again made and the collection taken up. We must not omit the tasteful rendering of excellent music by the Weston church choir, which contributed very much to the enjoyment of the occasion. Altogether considered, this District Convocation was one of unusual pleasure. Some who have attended very many such gatherings declared it the most pleasant they had ever enjoyed.

The District generally appears to be in a prosperous condition—funds in advance, and the numbers of members slightly increased. With such a power and prestige as we now possess, with such a President as England in her generosity has given us; with the history of the heroic past to stimulate, and the promises of God's free Gospel to sustain, we look out upon the future with courage and hope, expecting "God, even our God, shall bless us" while we steadily pursue "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

It ought to be added that the people of Weston were not behind those of the most liberal localities in their courtesy and hospitality to the ministers and other friends assembled.

Our Home Work.

REVIEW OF THE DISTRICTS.

KINGSTON DISTRICT.

The section of the country embraced in this District is the oldest Methodist field in Canada. Here Methodism obtained a local habitation and a name. Here the first Conference after Canadian Methodism was separated from the General Conference in the United States was held. Here some of its most glorious successes were achieved. Here the first pioneers of the cross lived and laboured, and suffered, and died. But though the veterans have passed away their work still lives. Being dead, they yet speak in the lives and hearts of their descendants and successors. Instead of the fathers, have come up the children. If "God buries his workmen, he still carries on his work." The Methodistic history of this part of the country, establishes the truth of this almost inspired declaration.

The boundaries of this District, are not much larger than those of an old-fashioned Methodist Circuit. It extends from Gananoque on the east, to Napanee on the west; and from Bath on the south, to Arden in the township of Kennebec on the north, and in general terms may be said to comprise an area of about fifty miles square. The soil in the southern and central portions, is considered good for agricultural purposes, and farmers are generally in good circumstances, and are doing well. In some places, however, the soil is shallow, and the rock may be seen cropping out on the high lands. The northern part is very rough and rocky, and the people consequently scattered, and unable to provide for themselves religious ordinances.

On this field of labour, there are at present twenty-one ministers and preachers, employed in the regular work, besides a very large number of unpaid labourers; who are all in their different spheres doing efficient service in the cause of their common master. The results of their united efforts, will be known only in the day of eternity.

The religious aspects of the Districts are, on the whole, encouraging. Our District camp-meeting last fall, was a means of accomplishing good. It resulted in giving a good healthy tone to the religious services on several of the Circuits, in the quickening and building of the church, and in bringing souls to God. We have been favoured with gracious outpourings of the spirit at Kingston, Newburgh, and other places during the year. There are, however, many drawbacks to a general revival, and a great increase in numbers. This part of the country suffers greatly from removals. Many of our most enterprising young men, expecting to secure wealth without that patient industry, and energy of character exemplified in their predecessors, forsake the land where their fathers lived and toiled, and prospered, and go to seek their fortune in a strange country. Their expectations are often disappointed, but this does not prevent others from making the same experiment. Many financial and moral wrecks are strewn along this path to warn the heedless and unwary traveller of danger, but in vain. This is a serious drawback to our religious, as well as financial prosperity. Young men of influence, of talent, of education, and of piety, are lost to our country and the church. Throughout the District, Methodism, without question, exerts a preponderating influence. Some of its features are unmistakably stamped on other sections of the christian church. If her sons are true to themselves, and true to the character, and example, and teachings of their sainted fathers they will indelibly imprint some of her fair lineaments on the entire population. The number of our members as reported at our last District meeting was, 3,159.

For various connexional purposes, the District has paid during the past year as follows, viz., To the Church Relief Fund, \$100.93; the Contingent Fund, \$197.63; Educational Fund, \$81.33; Superannuation Fund, \$445.90; Children's Fund, \$1,105.63; Missionary Fund, \$3,548.68; and for Ministers salaries about \$8,290; making a total raised on the District, apart from local improvements, such as church buildings &c., and from general connexional objects, such as Centenary

and College subscriptions of \$12,480. The District has received from Connexional Funds:—Contingent Fund, \$103; Children's Fund, \$688.50; and Missionary Fund, \$1,378. These amounts added to \$8,207; make a total of about \$10,390; raised for ministers salaries. The estimated value of church property on the District is as follows, viz., Churches, \$101,555; debt, 21,297; net \$79,258; Parsonages, \$10,800; furniture, \$1,005; debt, 1,400; net 10,405; burial grounds, \$3,025; debt, 50; net 3,975; total value of property, \$119,565; total debt, \$22,746; net value, \$96,819.

There are 36 churches on the District ranging from 36 to 90 feet long and from 22 to 62 feet wide. Of these 17 are built of stone, two of brick, and the remainder are wooden buildings. During the past year two of these have been erected—One at Yarker on the Wilton Circuit; a good stone building, well furnished, and comfortably heated with hot air; the other in Fredericksburgh near the site of the first Methodist Church in Canada. It is a very comfortable frame church, neatly finished, and sufficient to accommodate the worshippers in that neighbourhood for many years to come. Extensive repairs and improvements have been made on several churches and parsonages, 3 new parsonages have been provided on the District, and 20 others have been secured to the connexion. The old Switzer's church in which the Conference was held in 1828, is now undergoing a pretty thorough repair. While it is with regret, I am compelled to state that the first Methodist Church in Canada is now so ruinous in its stead hundreds of sacred edifices have sprung up in our land, where the same doctrines are taught, and where the same gracious results in the conversion of souls, and the sanctification of believers, are yearly witnessed. Blessed be God the glory has not yet departed from our Israel. There is a good stone church to be erected at Moscow on the Wilton Circuit, during the coming summer, and another in the Hoffman neighbourhood on the Bath Circuit. Our Wilton friends are doing themselves credit by their enterprise in Church building. Within a very short time they will have completed two beautiful stone churches, and a good new parsonage; and, though neither is prophetic the son of a prophet I venture to predict that Wilton, the head of the Circuit will not long be satisfied with its present old fashioned and barn-like structure.

We have on the District 8 Circuits and 7 missions. The Circuits are generally self-sustaining. Some of them receive a very small pitance, which, with one or two exceptions, they would do better without, from the Contingent fund. The sooner they make a "Proclamation of Independence," the better. They have been too long in leading strings. These are also 2 or 3 of our missions which I am sure will ere long generously refuse to receive any thing more from the Missionary Fund, and thus enable the committee to send the funds which these missions have been receiving to do duty in the great North-west. Some of the missions now pay into the fund nearly as much as they receive, and can scarcely therefore be looked upon as a burden on the Society. Other parts of the mission field on this District are likely to be permanently dependant on foreign aid. As it was in the beginning, it is now, and so it is probable it "ever shall be." There are parts of Tamworth, and Battersea, and I may say, the whole of Kennebec, which, unless some valuable minerals are discovered, of some new branch of industry spring up, suited to that rough and rugged country, or some revolution of nature occur, that will transmute rock into productive soil, must always remain missionary ground. There are some noble spirits in these regions engaged in lumbering and other country employments, who are I believe doing very well, but apart from the lumber trade, the prospects of that part of the country are not very flattering. Yet notwithstanding these facts (for facts—hard facts—they are) I would be strongly opposed to the withdrawal of our missionaries from this ground. It may never pay financially, yet these are the very places that ought to be sustained. Where there are souls redeemed by the blood of Christ, depending on us for religious ordinances, we ought to aid them. Other more highly favoured sections of the country can take care of themselves. Christ came to help those who could not help themselves, and the Church should, according to her ability, imitate his example.

JAMES GRAY.

BRÖCKVILLE DISTRICT.

This District is situated on the beautiful St. Lawrence, whose waters wash the southern part of the Lyn Circuit, near the termination of the Thousand Islands, off Rock Port, and continue to flow easterly until they bid a final adieu to this District at Cornwall, its eastern termination. The Lyn Circuit and the Cornwall Mission are its extreme points, east and west. Between these, in consecutive order, from west to east, are the following Circuits:—Brookville, North Augusta, Prescott, Edwardsburgh, Matilda, Morrisburgh, and Moultonville; while in the rear of them, in the same order, are the following Circuits and Missions:—Farmersville, Spencerville, Kemptville, South Mountain, Winchester, and Roxboro'.

For beauty of situation, healthiness of climate, and variety of scenery, few Districts can excel the Brookville District. On the southern part of the Lyn Circuit, the romantic and beautiful scenery of the Thousand Islands commences. A considerable number of these islands are in full view from two appointments on the Circuit, stretching to the westward. Some of them comprise several well-cultivated farms, with good substantial farm-houses erected on them; giving good evidence of the thrift and happiness of their occupants; while others are rough, stern, granite rocks, with only a few mosses and grasses clinging to their hoary heads and sides. But between them—in gentle flow or rapid whirl—threads the clear and ever-beautiful St. Lawrence. At early spring, in sum-