

Books. D!! S BOOK. FERINC!

The Wesleyan

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Published under the direction of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada

\$2 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE Postage Prepaid.

VOL. XXX

HALIFAX, N.S. JULY 13 1878.

NO. 28

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

DEATH IN THE MINE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Another terrible accident has occurred, and a coal mine has become the grave of more than 200 of the hardy toilers by whom the mine was worked. The scene of the calamity is in Haydock, near Wigan. The pit is divided into two mines, an upper and lower, and it was in the deepest and most extensive section that the explosion occurred. It was proved that only a quarter of an hour before the event, the mine was examined and all was found apparently safe, and nothing called for special precautions. In a moment a fearful shock, followed by a terrible blast of flame, sweeping through the workings like a tornado of fire, struck down the helpless victims. If any escaped the first fierce storm they were quickly overwhelmed by the deadly after-damp. A very few who were near the shaft have survived to tell the sad tale of that awful event, and of their own narrow escapes. The strength of the explosion was so great that the earth for some distance around was shaken as by an earthquake. The cause of the explosion is unknown. The usual inquiry is being entered upon, and provision will be made for the destitute relatives of those who have been killed, but the whole event is one of deplorable severity and magnitude, and has evoked much sympathy from all ranks, including our gracious and motherly Queen.

MR. MACKONOCHE

has long been known to your readers as one of the foremost leaders in the great Ritualistic party. He is a clergyman in London, in charge of a poor and populous parish, but he is kept well provided for in every respect by the munificent gifts and offerings of enthusiastic admirers and supporters from far and near. He has been for upwards of ten years at conflict with his superiors in church affairs, and again and again figured in the law courts for violations of ecclesiastical rule. Sometimes beaten and not unfrequently victorious, he has defied mentions and sentences, going on in his high headed way, a hero in the eyes of his followers, but a sore trial to his bishop, and the judges of the land. A severe sentence has now been passed upon him. For three years he is suspended from all his offices, and from all the revenues of his parish. If he further resists, the only alternative will be prison life, and much curiosity is felt as to the course that will be taken by this earnest, resolute and high-handed son of the great establishment.

THE STRIKE IN LANCASHIRE

is almost over. Very bitter and resolute has the controversy been, and cruel have been the deeds of some of the rioters. The strike lasted for upward of seven weeks, 300,000 people were thrown out of work and an immense sum of money has been thus lost by them. While rejecting the masters' offer of work at a reduction of 10 per cent., they had to appeal to the public for aid, and were compelled to subsist upon a niggard and precarious charity. Nearly all have returned to work at the terms offered, but great injury has been done to the trade of the District, and it will be a long time before it can fully recover, or the bad feelings engendered between the employers and their work people will have passed away.

THE FRENCH CONFERENCE.

In the midst of the strife of political parties, and surrounded by an ever-dominant Romanism, there is a brave band of Wesleyan ministers in France, working at great disadvantage yet with unquenchable zeal and love. They have recently held their Conference, and reviewed the work in all its bearings. It is grievous to learn that they are struggling with great pecuniary difficulties, their salaries are very low, and even these are in part unpaid. Some generous friends in England have come to their help, and made up the embarrassing deficiencies for the present year, but they need some permanent help, and to a much larger amount than the funds of the Missionary Society can supply. There is still a great necessity for the presence of Methodism in France. The life of other evangelical

far too much conformed to the worldliness which surrounds them. Their testimony against error is clear, but they lack power. Our work as a church has been much blessed, but our brethren there have not yet the means for separate Conferential existence, and are compelled to depend upon foreign resources. They are reluctant to do this, for there is not a braver or more self-sacrificing band in Methodism.

THE IRISH CONFERENCE

is now in session, but we are not in possession of any definite intelligence. Drs. Pope, Punshon, and Rigg, together with some other well-known brethren form the English deputation. The important question of union with other Methodist churches will be determined, and excites great interest.

THE CONGRESS

in Berlin has now been in formal session over a week and yet very little actual work has been done, or the results have been kept profoundly secret. Yet the prevalent feeling is decidedly hopeful, and the fear of war is passing away. It is useless to attempt any summary of the questions being discussed, or to give an idea of the forms and precedents by which the Congress professes to be governed. All is very stately and deliberate. The chief actors are extremely cautious, and there is intense dread of any move that might be taken advantage of, or damage the promoters.

OUR HOPE

rests in the fact that unceasing prayer to God is ascending from loyal Christian hearts, that the distinguished arbitrators may be endowed with wisdom from above, and brought to conclude a peace on a wise and permanent foundation. The interest felt is very strong, and intense desire is felt for early and precise information, but for this we must be content to wait.

June 25, '78.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

A GLANCE AT THE FINE ART DEPARTMENT. MEDALS AND COINS THAT TELL A HISTORY. THE SALOON OF HISTORICAL PORTRAITS IN MARBLE. M'MAHON AND CANROBERT. THE BRITISH FINE ART SECTION. SOME PICTURES BY A DISTINGUISHED ENGLISH ARTIST. A BUST OF BARONESS BURDETT COUTTS.

(From our regular correspondent.)

PARIS, June 23, 1878.

A visitor to the Exhibition, who has only a week to spend there, will find himself embarrassed as to the sections he ought most particularly to inspect. Let him, unless he has some special object connected with mill, or farm, or handicraft, room as much as he can in fresh fields and pastures new. Let him go in the early days of his visit to the Fine Art Department, which runs straight through the centre of the building from the Vestibule of Honor to the Vestibule of Manual Industry, parallel to the Military School. He will in his course get the best thoughts and feelings of each nation that exhibits. A room hung round with historical tapestries is the first in the way. It has to the right a collection of theatrical accessories and scene-shifting appointments, and to the left, a display of coins and medals struck from the French Mint. They speak to a reflective mind of the instability of royal and imperial grandeur in this country. We see a medal of Josephine and Napoleon, Emperor and Empress, and with a date three years later, of Napoleon and Mary Louise. Another medal represents the King of Rome with his mother as Empress regent; then Louis the XVIII; Charles the X; Louis Philippe; then the Republic of '48, with Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, forming her escort; followed by medals bearing the profiles of Louis Napoleon, President, of Louis Napoleon Emperor, of Louis Napoleon and Eugène de Montizo, and of a baby who is now the Chislehurst Pretender. Thiers had no medal struck to celebrate the defeat of the Commune, the successful negotiation of his gigantic loan, or the passing of his constitution. McMahon, so far, has not given a sitting to the Artist of the Mint. The Marshall's likeness, however, is in the next hall: "The Saloon of Historical Portraits in Marble." It is flattered, but in the main true. That coarse energetic

take orders from the Emperor, in the Crimea, is to the left. Canrobert the 4th of December here, is to the right. In the many busts and statues that predominate in this hall, the reactionary energy of the Fine Art Department betrays itself. The Marquis C. who has it in charge, has not, however, had the audacity to set up the images of Louis Napoleon and his wife, though they were both very positive historical facts. To the left of this hall there is a room where the costumes of Provincial France are gathered. We leave it to enter the British Fine Art Section, comprising eight rooms, every one of which is larger than the space allotted to British art at Philadelphia. These rooms have comfortable seats, mats on the floors, civil attendants, and a railway round the room, on which visitors—and this is an immense boon—can lean while studying pictures low down, or jotting down impressions in their note books. Oil paintings stand at the head of the eighty-five classes. The French, who are honored as umpires in all questions of art, think highly of the English school, which does well when it follows nature, but very badly when it follows British art traditions. England's greatest artist, Millais, sends ten pictures. The portrait of Mrs. Bischoffsheim is that of a hard woman of the world, in a trundled up Dolly Varden train of brown silk brocade, dotted over with colored bouquets, and a petticoat of warm tinge. The coloring is pleasant, the subject not agreeable. In the portraits of English ladies, generally, there is an absence of that delightful thing, to express which I must borrow a French term, *la bonne grace*. "Hearts are trumps," represents three grumpy young women sitting in a luxurious green-house playing dummy whist. They are tired, I suppose, of the tedious game, and of fullness of bread, and of idleness. I was told that they are the daughters of a knighted manufacturer of artillery of heavy calibre. The wealth of the world flows in upon them and takes away their appetite for the enjoyment of ordinary and extraordinary pleasures. Their lilac silk dresses and pink ribbons, the *bonnet* table at which they drag through their game, the ferns and other hot-house plants, are all faithfully and ably done. A dominant quality of Millais is sincerity. He represents things as they strike him and his eye has great power to see and to discern. That prim old "Yeoman of the Guard," is wonderfully well rendered. But it is not a picture for a small collection. The scarlet color of the coat is too obtrusive. "The sisters," another of Millais' pictures, lent by an English gentleman, are good, simple, rosy-cheeked, ruddy-lipped little girls. What a breath of fresh air from the Highlands is not that Scotch landscape, "O'er the Hills and Far Away"! Crag, copse, moor, and misty hills in the distance, spanned by a rainbow, present the finest combination of wild scenery I ever saw on canvas. And that Heart of Oak, the "Northwest Passage"! The germs of an epic poem are there. The old seaman, whose parlor is done up like the cabin of a ship, will have it that none but the English will ever find the Northwest passage, about an attempt to discover which, by the French, his fair, slim daughter is reading to him in a newspaper. There are two classes in which the English are unrivalled—cut and engraved flint glass and water-color paintings. The highest art is displayed in both. Their drawings in black and white are also admirable, their wood and lithograph and galvanoplastic engravings, too, are highly meritorious, and, in spite of a foggy climate, their photographs are first-rate. In sculpture the English hold a good position. "Baroness Burdett Coutts" is a bust to study. There is great distinction and sensibility expressed in her long narrow head. It is a benign face, but is she genial? I think not. Compassionate she certainly is. It would make her suffer to see a worm cut in twain by her gardener's hoe. The baroness is a Tory, a friend of the Chislehurst people, I am told, and High Church; but she could not be herself a tyrant, or do an evil act for self-aggrandisement, even if it were possible for her to have the temptation of poverty. Impossible to find a type more purely humane. The dress of the old Darwinian Adam has been entirely elimi-

N. B. AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE.

FOURTH DAY. FORENOON SESSION.

Conference opened at 9 o'clock, with the usual devotional services; after which an invitation was read from Charlotetown asking the Conference to hold its next Session there. After some discussion it was decided to accept the invitation. Reports from several of the Committees were then submitted and accepted.

In the Report of the Committee on Memorials were embodied references to several matters of more or less interest. The Committee on Pastoral Address reported by reading a lengthy and excellent address, which was highly complimented by the Conference, and adopted.

By the wish of the newly ordained men, Dr. Pickard moved that the hearty thanks of the Conference be presented to Dr. Stewart for the excellent charge delivered to them last evening, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of it for publication in one of our connexional organs. For a length of time the question of appointing a general Agent to collect for the relief of the burnt churches in St. John, occupied the attention of the Conference; and, not being settled at the time of adjournment, it was laid over until afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with the usual devotional exercises; and, before passing to the order of the day, the Report of the Examining Committee was received and adopted. The question of setting apart a General Agent in the interests of St. John churches was settled by deciding it to be unadvisable to set apart a man for the purpose contemplated.

After an interval of an hour and a-half, during which the Stationing Committee retired to complete its work, the Conference proceeded to elect its representatives to the General Conference. Nine was announced as the number we were entitled to send; but it being decided by vote of Conference that the President is reckoned as already elected to the General Conference, it was announced that eight names only be written on every ballot. The result of the first casting of votes was the election of the following six brethren—D. D. Currie, J. Lathern, R. Duncan, H. Pickard, D. D., C. H. Paisley, A. M., and C. Stewart, D. D. The excitement in Conference at this point was intense; while the satisfaction of those elected was apparent, the anxiety of every eligible man to be one of the other two was evinced. After the vote had been cast three times more H. Sprague, A. M., was declared elected. Then the vote was cast three times for the remaining one, but no election ensued; and as the hour for the evening service had been nearly reached, it was necessary to adjourn.

The Sabbath School Anniversary meeting was begun at 8 o'clock, p.m., and was presided over by the ex-President. The devotional exercises were led by Rev. J. C. Berrie. The report which was read by the Secretary—Rev. R. Wilson—did not show this department of our work in such a state of prosperity as is desirable; in view of which the Committee recommend the holding of District S. S. Conventions, and that in each District this Convention shall be held in connection with the Annual Meeting. Rev. J. Howie discussed the following topic: "The importance of the Sabbath School to the Church and the World." His speech was replete with interest.

Rev. S. R. Ackman was called for; and he, coming forward, said he had no topic, but would make one. He delivered an excellent address on "The duty of our people to the children."

Here Rev. W. Dobson was to have spoken, but was unable to do so because of having had a surgical operation performed upon his throat in the morning. This explanation was made by the Secretary.

Rev. J. Lathern, in a very clear and forcible address showed the "Relative, and not actual, decrease in all our returns, owing to the changes by the Discipline." With the Doxology and the Benediction by Rev. J. V. Jost, a very interesting

FIFTH DAY. FORENOON.

This being the day arranged for our reception and entertainment of the N. S. Conference, it was looked forward to with great interest. Shortly after the opening of Conference the members of the N. S. Conference marched up from the station and entered the church. They presented an imposing appearance; and as they took their seats in the pews left vacant for them, it was seen that they outnumbered us; but though in numbers greater they were not in appearance better. In a timely and neat address our President welcomed the N. S. Conference, and in fitting terms the President of the N. S. Conference replied. After calling the ex-Presidents and the Secretaries to the platform, the previously arranged order of business was read and immediately proceeded with.

The Report of the Supernumerary Fund was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer—Rev. Dr. Pickard. This was succeeded by a lively and prolonged discussion in which Dr. Pope, Jno. Read, President Taylor, Jabez Rogers, G. O. Huestis, A. W. Nicolson, John Lathern, J. R. Narraway and others took part. Mr. Narraway said there were two chief points upon which he would dwell—*What was in favor and what was against the amalgamation of the Supernumerary and the Superannuated Funds.* There were in favor the following:

- (1) If an equitable basis of amalgamation could be reached so as to make the Fund Connexional, it would be desirable to amalgamate.
- (2) If it would give to our widows sixty per cent. more, as doubtless it would, it would be desirable.
- (3) If Lay interest in this fund in the West is increasing, this is favorable.

But there is much against this scheme. That an equitable basis of union can be reached is doubtful. If the sense of a letter read by Dr. Pickard is taken to be the view of the Western Conferences they do not favor the scheme. They evidently do not want to pay any additional into the Fund, and are no more willing that we should extract anything from it, either of which must be done if an equitable basis of union is reached. Then it has not been made to appear that we would get anything more out of the amalgamated fund than we get out of our fund as it is.

The following resolution, moved by President Taylor, was unanimously carried: "That it is not expedient to urge the amalgamation of these Funds, but that it be left an open question for the next four years."

A few minutes remaining for the discussion of this matter, Dr. Pickard was accorded the privilege of addressing the meeting. In a very earnest and pointed speech he showed the sources of the income of this Fund; that every member of our Church ought to be asked yearly to contribute to this Fund, and then the receipts from the circuits would exceed those from the ministers—the reverse of which has been true,—and that unless we bestir ourselves in the interests of this Fund, guided by the principles laid down for its regulation, we will soon find ourselves unable to meet the claims upon it.

S. F. Huestis and Prof. Burwash made telling addresses in this connection, urging the necessity of working in the interests of this Fund. Mr. Huestis then read the resolution of the N. S. Conference relative to this Fund: "That if no amalgamation of these Funds is reached the Representatives of the Eastern Conferences to the General Conference be requested to appoint a Committee to guard the interests of our Fund for the next four years."

Mr. Nicolson and Mr. McKeown supported this resolution. H. Sprague, Mr. Temple, Mr. Read, and Dr. Pickard questioned the possibility and propriety of passing it. Several others spoke and the resolution, as stated, was adopted.

Dr. Inch then came to the platform, and, in behalf of the institutions, extended an invitation to the united Conferences to dine at 10 o'clock in their dining halls, all those whose surnames begin with any letter between A and K, inclusive, to go to the Male Academy, those between L and Z, inclusive, to the Female Academy. Conference then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

Carlton, Mrs. C. O.