

# The Wesleyan,

369

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Editor and Publisher.

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

\$2 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE  
Postage Prepaid.

VOL. XXIX

HALIFAX, N.S., DECEMBER 15, 1877

NO. 48

**WESLEYAN BOOK ROOM,**  
125 GRANVILLE STREET,  
HALIFAX, N.S.

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**OUR ENGLISH LETTER.**

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.

Mr. Editor.—The important meetings in connection with the anniversary of this great association have recently been held. They were mighty gatherings of the earnest supporters of the principles for which the Alliance is so persistently battling, and there appears to be no abatement of zeal or hopefulness. The attention of the public has been unavoidably drawn towards the movement; its numbers, strength and compact organization cannot be ignored, nor the ungrudging liberality of its enthusiastic supporters. It is much dreaded by all the manufacturers of strong drinks, and the vendors thereof intensely hate it. Nevertheless it keeps steadily at work, making free use of the press, multiplying its agencies, watching elections, aiding all measures for legislative restrictions upon the sale of drinks, cooperating with the promoters of Sabbath closing, and gradually moulding public opinion in the direction of its movements and aims.

Another long and tedious trial, which all (before the magistrates, and then the judges), occupied nearly fifty days; has been brought to its conclusion. The result is that a Solicitor who had a good practice, and three Detectives of superior rank in the Force, and distinguished for long service and brilliant achievements in their profession, have been found guilty. Their crime has been conspiracy to defeat justice, to enable the guilty to escape, and the giving or reception of monetary bribes. The punishment awarded is two years imprisonment with hard labor. It was not in the power of the Judge to inflict a heavier punishment or it would have been done. Yet the consequences of their guilt are very severe. Loss of honorable position, of valuable pensions, and perhaps of life-long degradation for they are widely known throughout the Kingdom. It has been a most deplorable breach of trust; and has met with sore and abiding punishment and disgrace.

upon the various matters of pressing importance have been in session at the Centenary Hall during the past fortnight. These were committed to their consideration, by the last Conference, and their recommendation after undergoing various sittings, will be ready for the Conference of 1878 at Bradford. A certain amount of publicity now attends the sittings of these Committees, and the result of their deliberations soon become known.

the great schools for the education of the sons of ministers, and those quite recently established for the daughters, are not at all upon a stable foundation. The expenditure has become out of all proportion to the income, and a large debt, which is steadily increasing, is one of the difficulties which has to be surmounted. It is believed that immediate relief would be the result of the introduction of the children of the laity. The schools are admirably conducted, the education imparted is equal to any that can be obtained in any similar schools, and spiritual influences are such that the families of our people would eagerly seek for the admission of their children and would willingly pay for their training. It is believed that the Committee will earnestly recommend this change.

of the young people of our families and congregations occupy the attention of the Committee. This has been under consideration again and again, but the outcome has not been equal to the exigency of the case. It is now evident that an important step has been

decided upon, and that the proposal bids fair to open the way for such organizations in the midst of the youth of Methodism as will under the blessing of God form the missing link, between our advanced scholars and the educated youth of our flocks, and full membership in the church of Christ. There were other essential matters under discussion, but it would be premature at present to dwell upon them. Methodism is in the midst of an era of development and progress. The old truths are loyally cherished, but new forms and adaptations of existing agencies to the required work of the day, are being employed, and will be, even more extensively, in future.

is in excitement and turmoil. Some prophets of evil forebodings, are asserting that a revolution is imminent, and that Germany is closely watching events and preparing if need be, to strike again. Affairs have certainly not reached such a crisis, but MacMahon is obstinate and under evil influences and listens to malign counsellors. If he does not yield, and meet the wishes of the able and compact majority, or if he attempts another dissolution, all France will be ablaze with wrath and resistance. The times are perilous and the situation critical, but it is hoped that wiser and more pacific counsels will prevail.

is decidedly in favor of Russia. Karé has fallen with all it contains, into the hands of the Muscovite. Erzerum is in sore straits, and it appears that Armenia is well-nigh lost to Turkey. In Europe the fierce conflict rolls on but Russia everywhere maintains its hold, and for a time at least the victorious achievements of the Turks have come to an end, and they are being severely pressed by the mighty invader.

held Missionary meetings in Erskine church three evenings in succession. A full statement was made of their mode of operation—their numerous Home Missions—and the yet wider sphere of the Foreign evangelistic work.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—It will please you to be informed that the

on the 22nd ult., was well kept by multitudes in this city. Being appointed by the Dominion Government for the whole country, it was proclaimed as a general holiday by the Mayor, and was suitably observed. Let us hope that the time of public thanks giving in years to come will be the same for all the Provinces. This would be a great convenience. The Cabinet at Ottawa cannot but know that such a course would be welcome to every good Canadian. Sermons were preached in most of the churches here. The occasion was improved for discoursing on our dependence on God for life and breath and all good things, and our consequent obligations to Him for a bountiful harvest—the revival of trade, and peace in all our borders. Thanks-giving day affords a fine opportunity for promoting an enlightened patriotism. Its benefits could be best secured by making collections on that day in aid of some public charity, as a hospital for the sick, or an asylum for the insane, the deaf or the blind. The gifts of some of the congregations were wisely and kindly presented to the General Hospital.

so called, have been lately held in several churches here both Catholic and Protestant. A few words on some of them will not be unappropriate. In the Catholic churches the object seemed to be the local revival of religion. "Missions" is the name now given to special religious services in England, as well as by the Catholics in Canada. Their mission was conducted by the Redemptionist Fathers, and were numerously attended by the Irish. Some of the sermons have been fully reported in the city papers. If they are an average sample of the utterances in Catholic pulpits one cannot but be sorry for the hearers. The absence in them of the beautiful teachings of holy scripture concerning the character, the claims—the commands—and the spirit of Christ is much to be deplored. Protestants, their churches, their faith and their Bible were denounced in such terms as are unfit for the Wesleyan. It may be feared that a mission conducted as that here referred to would but little promote the charity which is the greatest of the Christian

graces. It would be more likely to make people bigoted papists, than lowly followers of Christ.

The closing service at St. Patrick's was so unusual as to deserve specific notice. Provision had been made and instruction given for each of the congregations to light a taper, hold it in his left hand, and stretch forth the right arm towards the baptismal font, that had been tastefully illuminated. This was done. The preacher then repeated the baptismal vows—slowly—emphatically—to which the vast throng as by one stentorian voice answered "Yes." He then with extended hand pronounced his blessing upon all present, and taking the part prescribed in the ceremony—whether young or old, rich or poor, parents or children. Near the altar a shrine of the Virgin Mary had been erected, and was brilliantly illuminated. This with the blaze of lighted tapers in the body of the spacious edifice made a gorgeous and resplendent scene. During the mission a large number signed the pledge of total abstinence. This is unquestionably good, and may lead to further improvement in knowledge, morals and true religion.

Withal Catholics are investigating beyond the limits permitted to them by their priests. The result in many cases is to withdraw from the church in which they have been bred, and to join some Protestant body. An instance of this kind has just now occurred in the case of a French Canadian priest. His letter to the Archbishop of Quebec informing him of the great change in his convictions and purposes, is much the best of the kind yet published. Herewith a copy of the letter is forwarded to you, in which, if you can find room for it in the WESLEYAN, your readers cannot but be much interested.

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The people were thus taken into the confidence of their ministerial leaders, and their larger liberality involved. The Rev. George Grant took a prominent part in these proceedings. They cannot but result in spiritual good and the further spread of the gospel.

too have recently held Anniversaries in three of the churches. The most effective of these was probably that in the Ottawa Street Church. The talented and popular Dr. Pierce, Editor of "Zion's Herald," Boston, preached, and delivered a most interesting platform speech. It was his first visit to this city for such a purpose. Many hope it will not be his last. He was very edifying and acceptable. Another of the speakers was the Rev. Mr. Saunders from Ontario. He was comparatively unknown, but his abilities baptized with the spirit of love, will surely place him in a forward rank of the host that is fighting the Lord's battle. The Vice-President of the General Conference—the Rev. George Douglas, L.L.D.—was also present and spoke. He has been unwell of late but he pronounced one of his great orations, as if he had risen to the greatness of the enterprise of gaining the world for Christ. The audience admired—were convinced and delighted. Consequently the collections were in advance of those last year.

had its annual public intercessory services for missions on the 30th ult. Worship was held in two of its Sanctuaries. The first in Christ Church Cathedral was a union of the congregations. The prayers, lessons, hymns, and the sermon were special and appropriate. The evening service was in St. George's Church. The Metropolitan preached. The collection was in aid of Christian work in Algona. Surely these general, earnest, devout services in relation to missions are a sign of the time. They may be a providential reply to the scientific unbelief now becoming so portentous. The monthly missionary prayer meetings may have helped to produce this intelligent zeal for the conversion of men to God. The Methodist church has held no secondary place in this noble work, which interests the angels. The best feelings in reference to

it may still be nurtured by the old methods, until better be devised. A monthly concert for prayer that the conquest of the whole world by the "truth as it is in Jesus," may be hastened—may be so conducted as to prove no less a blessing to those who assist therein than to those who dwell in the remotest parts of the earth. In this cause it is undeniable that "he who watereth others shall be watered himself also." Aggressive efforts for the extension of Christ's cause is the sovereign antidote against spiritual feebleness and decay. Those who have but little money to give—nor much learning nor eloquence to consecrate to the spread of the Gospel—may nevertheless easily, acceptably, profitably unite in the presentation to God of the Christ appointed petition "Our Father—thy kingdom come."

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH is now an accomplished fact in Montreal. Bishop Fallows has been here and well received by not a large party. The reasons he assigned for the existence of his church in Canada, and for organizing a branch in this city did not convince many. This new congregation will meet for worship in the Hall of the Natural History Society. It is stated that a clergyman in Digby, Nova Scotia, has accepted the call to become its pastor, and that his salary is to be \$1,400 per ann.

THE OKA INDIANS are yet in great trouble. Their condition this winter is even worse than ever before. They are forbidden to cut wood for coopers' work, or fuel. Employment has been refused to the men on rafts and barges. Many people will no longer purchase the basket work of the women. Their prospect for the immediate future is very dark. Their chief dependence is on charity. This ought not so to be. A bazaar is to be held on their behalf in St. James Street Church in a few days. The unsound position of their oppressors has been made to appear from the fact that one of the documents whereby they obtained judgment in a late trial, bore a forged signature. Nothing need be added to this. The friends of the Indians seem now to be divided in opinion as to what is best for them. The Government at Ottawa are understood to be willing to assist, provided the Indians will promise to abide by their decision, which some think they ought to do. Others fear that the Indians would be removed from the land they have occupied for generations. Of this they will not hear. It would perhaps be a wrong. But there are cases in which the extreme of legal right would be productive of more evil than a judicious compromise. It may be that the case of the Methodist Indians at Oka is of this sort. Comfort, security, or social progress can hardly be expected for them in their present surroundings. Elsewhere they may have tranquility and be effectually protected, and if associated with a tribe like-minded with themselves, they would advance in civilization, knowledge, and religion.

have lately held their annual meeting. This Association have kept to their early professions—to labor for the spiritual and social benefit of young men. Many of these have been trained for usefulness. The various branches of their work are well presented in the report, which will amply repay the careful attention of similar organizations in other places. This Institution is a great blessing to the city. It is very happy in the character, ability, and thoughtful activity of its chief officers. The membership stands at 973, eighty of whom are new members. The funds show a deficit, but not so great as to cause embarrassment. A plan has been devised and adopted for paying the debt on their Hall. It required that one hundred young men should subscribe \$100 each. Before the close of the meeting fifty persons pledged this sum. In about three years more this commodious building will be free from debt. The comfort of the young men, and their useful activity will be thus largely promoted.

Two other societies have recently been formed, one distinctively Protestant, the other Catholic, each with a view to the defence and maintenance of the interests of its own party. It will be well for the

country if the supposed necessity for these shall disappear, and men of both religious professions cordially unite to constitute a

CANADIAN NATIONAL SOCIETY which is now a candidate for the suffrage of the citizens. Its object will be to promote a spirit of harmony and mutual confidence, and to foster the spirit of Canadian patriotism among all classes of the people irrespective of their national origin or of their religion. If this project succeed it will deserve the applause of every lover of the country. Party spirit is lively and strong, yet we are all Britons. Religion is a subject of controversy, yet we are all Christians. The mother tongue of some is French, and of others English, yet all of us are Canadians. It will be well indeed if a common ground can be discovered on which all can meet, and those topics only be presented in which all can harmoniously cooperate. This would soon blunt the keen edge of faction whereby one hurts another without doing any good to himself or the public. It would soon make manifest that under the colors which every one affects, there is an honest good will which entitle every man to the esteem and confidence of his neighbor. But this leads up to the grand morality of the Bible. Disregard of the book is at once a fault and the fountain of many social evils. Its oracles teach us to "honour all men," to "Love the brotherhood." To "Fear God," and to "honor the king."

Permit me to add a few words of sorrow and love for the

REV. WILLIAM M'CAETY. He was appointed with the writer to the Charlottetown circuit in 1848. He resided near the church on Lot 49. On making a new plan for the preaching it occurred to me that that primitive name of the beautiful place which rose so gently from the shore, adorned by many cottages the homes of an industrious and thriving people ought to be exchanged for a better. Mr. McCarty suggested "Pownal," taken from the neighboring bay. It was adopted, was generally accepted, and has long been the name of the post office in that district. Our deceased brother was a true Methodist preacher. I do not remember that one unpleasant word passed between us on account of work—or finance—or the partiality of friends. His disease so soon after solemnising the marriage of his only son was indeed a surprise. His final hour was probably hastened by his great loss by the fire in St. John. But his work was finished, he rests from his labors. The lesson to his yet surviving friends is "to work while it is day, for the night cometh." The day which follows that night to the faithful laborers is one wherein the sun shall no more go down—but the Lord shall be unto them an everlasting light and their God their glory.

Yours truly  
Dec. 7, 1877. E. B.

GOD'S DESIGN.

One design of God in the gospel is to bring us to make Him the object of our undivided respect,—that He may engross our regard every way. There is an inclination in the creature not only to the adoration of a lord and sovereign, but to complacency in some one as a friend—some one that may be freely conversed with. Nor does virtue nor holiness destroy or weaken this inclination of our nature; but so hath God contrived in the affair of our redemption, that a divine person may be the object even of this inclination of our nature. And in order hereto, such an one has come down to us, has taken our nature, and become one of us, and now calls Himself our friend, brother, our companion; "for my brethren and companions' sake will I now say, Peace be within thee." Is not this all we can want?—Jonathan Edwards.

HAPPY will you be if you learn what it is to find love an occupation. It is no use to ask what those who love God do with Him. There is no difficulty in spending our time with a friend we love: our heart is always ready to open to him; we do not study what we shall say to him, but it comes forth without premeditation; we can keep nothing back; even if we have nothing special to say, we like to be with him. Oh, how much easier it is to love than to fear! Fear constrains, fetters one; but love persuades, comforts, inspires, expands the soul, and makes one desire what is good for its own sake.—Fenelon.