

# Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1870.

## THE LAST DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE.

Last week in speaking of the first days of the Conference session just closed, we noted the characteristics of the Conference weather, the Conference town, the Conference entertainers, the Conference appearance, the Conference tone and the most marked of the Conference proceedings. This week, we may not inappropriately pursue a similar line of remark in regard to the later days of the Conference sittings.

The weather throughout the entire Conference session was gloriously fine. A few showers came down by night to cool the temperature and refresh the earth; but the days with the most trifling exceptions were clear and sunny. This is a fact worth grateful recognition; for it contributed greatly to the comfort of those brethren who were billeted at some little distance from the Conference room, and indeed, tended greatly to brighten the spirits of both ministers and people feeling an interest in the Conference gatherings.

We need not say that Yarmouth and surroundings did not appear less beautiful at the close than at the beginning of Conference nor its people less kind and hearty.

The tone of Conference was prevalently and unusually good to the very close. Once again perhaps some brother accustomed to hold his deliberately formed opinions on subjects of even minor importance somewhat strongly may have desired a little more time to show why he held them, if they happened to be called into question; but even that brother, if such a brother there is, would, we are sure, promptly and thankfully acknowledge that in spirituality of tone, and in the general manifestation of brotherly sympathy and love toward each other among its members, the recent Yarmouth Conference was the very best yet held in Eastern British America.

Most agreeable and refreshing as was the predominant feeling pervading the Conference proceedings, it cannot with truth be said that the claims of business were sacrificed at the shrine of Christian courtesy or Christian affection during the session of Conference. Nothing of the sort occurred. On the contrary, much business was done, and done in a business way, thoroughly, orderly, expeditiously. Naturally, a considerable portion of Conference time was occupied with the consideration of matters of yearly routine. But even these demanded for their proper treatment careful and exact attention. Of the special measures discussed and passed upon during the last days of Conference, the most important were those having for their object respectively the establishment of the Book Room and Provincial Wesleyan enterprise on a stronger basis, the shortening of the time occupied by the Conference and its Preparatory Committees and the placing of the Home Mission movement on a better footing. All these are objects of decided importance to the well-being of the cause of God as identified with the prosperity of our church. It needs no argument to show that an enlargement of our Book Room operations and an expansion of the Provincial Wesleyan circulation on a thoroughly healthy basis would tend greatly to promote the work of God among us. And if it shall be found practicable so to shorten the period commonly occupied by Conference and its Committees, as to secure for very many Circuits in the Conference an additional Sabbath day's ministerial work each year, the result will be very beneficial to our cause which is yearly apt to suffer somewhat from the long absence of ministers from their fields of labour during Conference time. As to the more earnest and systematic prosecution of our Home Mission work; that we all acknowledge to be a duty of the first importance.

In noting the characteristics of the Conference just ended, we must give marked prominence to the extremely profitable nature of the religious services held in connection with the Conference during the latter half of the session, as well as during the earlier portion of it. Conference Sabbath was a day truly rich in spiritual blessing. The President's sermon in the Conference church on Sunday morning was in all respects the best ever taken for us from his lips. It was as directly practical and as appropriate as it well could be. It was most specially adapted to do good to the ministerial heart and conscience, and it did much good. The Conference Love feasts in the afternoon were seasons of the most hallowed and subduing character. The sermon from the Professor of Theology in the Conference church in the evening was an exceedingly solemn and impressive discourse on the General Judgment.

The sermons delivered in the other Yarmouth Methodist church on Conference Sunday were also, we learn, of a truly profitable character. Mr. Sutcliffe, who preached in Providence church in the morning, no doubt spoke under the influence of the gratitude he must have felt on resuming his regular pulpit work among us after his year's rest, and Mr. Lathern's beautiful sermon in the same church in the evening, on the "waters of life," must have been tinged with delightful recollections of the reviving influences on his own heart of those draughts drawn by him from the living fountains during the weary weeks of his recent afflictions. Of the character of other services conducted by Conference brethren in other churches on Conference Sabbath, we have not heard; but we can readily believe they were accompanied with the same influence which rendered the services of Conference Sunday so profitable in our own churches.

The Ordination services in the two Yarmouth Methodist churches on the Monday evening following were fraught with high spiritual interest. That conducted in the Providence church by the Co-Delegate was, we are informed, deeply impressive and good. That conducted in the Conference church by the President was, we know, instructive and moving in the highest degree. The charges delivered by the President though short were perfectly to the point and telling. The statements made by the young men ordained were gratifying and altogether satisfactory. May the Great Head of the Church make them burning and shining lights in the sanctuary.

Of other religious services held in connection with Conference we need not speak particularly. We believe they were all pervaded by a truly devout spirit, and felt to be refreshing by all who assisted at them. We cannot but hope that our sixteenth Conference—the best in some respects we have ever had—may be followed by the best year's religious work and success we have ever enjoyed in Eastern British America.

**ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.**

*Pira in Constantinople.*—Death of Charles Dickens.—Bible Revision.—The Education Bill.—The Fensy Lecture, at Conference.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The City of Constantinople was on Sabbath morning, June 5th, visited with a most destructive fire. Full particulars of this terrible event have not reached this country, but it is ascertained to have been almost unparalleled in the loss of life and property. Thousands of dwellings have been destroyed. The Residences of the English and French Ambassadors, many public buildings, Churches, Mosques and theatres have shared in the wide spread ruin.

The loss of property must have been immense, and upwards of 20,000 have been deprived of homes.

But the saddest part of the record is the fearful loss of human lives. It is feared that about 1300 have perished in the flames, but the exact number will never be known. Subscriptions for the relief of the destitute are being forwarded, and very much sympathy is being expressed for the sufferers in this great calamity.

The telegraph has already flashed to your shores the news of the death of Chas. Dickens. It is an event which has commanded the attention of the whole nation, and tributes of respect from the Queen, and from all ranks of the people have been freely tendered.

It appears a sudden event for it is only a few months ago since Mr. Dickens retired from his public readings and exhibitions, and at the time of his death a new and popular serial tale from his pen was being issued on both sides of the Atlantic. All is over now and the busy indefatigable worker has been called away from the scenes of his popularity and toil. Very little is known of his dying hours. Paralysis apparently without pain or consciousness he sank into the slumber of death.

The papers tell with eulogies of his life and writings. The man is extolled for his geniality of spirit, his burning hatred of wrong, his sympathy with suffering, and his broad, liberal sentiments. His writings are commended in language which we need not repeat, and are ranked as among the precious heritages of this generation. Other estimates of his life and writings will be made by those who value the Divine Glory and the eternal welfare of men; anxious questionings will arise as to the real value of the works of the deceased now that he, the author has passed where earthly distinctions and plaudits are of no account.

The promoters of the scheme for the Revision of the authorized version of Holy Scripture are urging it onward and are nearly ready to proceed to actual work. Several of the most distinguished men of the English Church are unwilling to co-operate with the self-elected Revisors, and the Government has emphatically disavowed lending its sanction or aid to the project.

A motion was made a few days ago in the House of Commons to authorize Her Majesty's Government to invite the President of the United States to join with them in a general movement to secure such a revision as should be generally acceptable to the two great Bible reading and Bible circulating nations of the earth. This motion was not favorably received by the Government and was not pressed to a division.

There appears to be little or no disposition to question the literary ability or fitness of the honored men, Episcopalian and Nonconformist; who are about to undertake the important work. They are proceeding to the duty they have voluntarily assumed, impressed with its absorbing importance, and sincerely anxious to produce such a Revision of the English Bible as shall command itself to the nation. Time alone can demonstrate the wisdom or utility of the plan.

At length, the Education Bill has been taken up in Committee, and is to be pressed forward with all possible speed.

The amendments of the Government are not at all satisfactory to the great bodies of Nonconformists, and strenuous opposition will be offered to the Bill. The Wesleyan sub-committee on Education has again met and recommends most strongly that every Wesleyan congregation shall petition against the Bill even in its amended form. It will be better for the Bill to be lost for this session, than to become law in its present state.

It is highly acceptable to the Church of England, and at a meeting of the Conservative party recently held at the residence of Mr. Disraeli it was determined to support the Bill. We trust however, to have better news to send you in the course of a fortnight or a month upon this vital question.

The first item of Conference news, that we are able to forward your readers is that "The Fensy Lecture" recently established, and to be delivered each year in connection with Conference; has been entrusted this year to Dr. George Osborn who will have the honor of delivering the first of a series of Lectures which it is trusted will be an honor to the literature of Methodism.

June 17, 1870.

**PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE.**

**SECOND DAY.**

Session opened, the Secretary reading the 61st chap. of Isaiah, after which 214th hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Rev. Joseph F. Bent.

The Journal of yesterday was read and adopted. Certain changes in order of the day were then made.

**QUESTION OF CHARACTER.**

In answer to the question, "Are there any objections to any of our ministers or preachers on trial?" the names of all the ministers and preachers on trial were called by the President.

**RESIGNATION.**

Rev. A. B. Black tendered his resignation to the Conference, and on motion it was accepted.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

Conference opened at 3 o'clock by Secretary reading 90th Psalm, after which 735th hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Rev. J. McMurray and Ex-President. After singing the 76th hymn, reference was made by the Co-Delegate to the fathers in the ministry who during the year had been removed by death. "The question," "What ministers have died during the year?" was asked, and the District called one by one. Minute of the P. E. Island District in relation to the removal by death of Rev. J. B. Strong was read by the chairman, Rev. H. B. Pope, Jr.

Bro. Ryan gave a brief account of father Strong's death, and delivered his dying message to his brethren in the ministry. "Tell them all," he said, "that I am going well. Not a cloud doth arise to darken the skies." &c.

The Rev. Thos. Davis bore testimony to his Christian fidelity and brotherly affection, unvarying since 1821, and triumphantly anticipated his own departure.

Rev. Richard Smith referred to the valuable counsels and prayers of father Strong. Dr. Stewart said that the deceased had rendered important service by his counsels and pulpit labors during the period of his life as a Supernumerary.

The President acknowledged his own profit from his uniform cheerfulness and holy counsels.

The chairman of the Sackville District read a brief memoir of the late Rev. Wm. Wilson, and addressed the Conference. Rev. Jno. McMurray said father Wilson was loyal to Methodism, and always on terms of unanimity with his brethren.

Bro. Sutcliffe referred to him as an author and minister highly valued by the Parent Missionary Committee.

Rev. G. O. Huestis had received his theological training at the hands of deceased in his study. Christopher Lockhart became a Local Preacher under his Superintendency, and had also travelled with him. In one revival 300 were brought to Christ.

The President had known him for 28 years. He was never gloomy, but always joyous and buoyant.

Rev. J. S. Adley, Chairman of Abnatis District read a Minute of his District Meeting in relation to the deceased. Bro. Miller and gave expression to his conviction of the prepossessed of deceased for his heavenly home. His dying exclamation was, "I have a house above."

The ex-President knew him well. His preaching was clear and expository. He was not a revivalist, but as a preacher he was successful. If a volume of his sermons was published, it would be very valuable. He had a remarkable memory, was most genial, affectionate and confidential as a friend.

The President endorsed the statements which had been made. A hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Rev. James England.

On motion it was ordered that letters of condolence be sent, by letter-writers of Conference, to widows or families of the deceased.

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION SOCIETY.**

The report of the committee to prepare a plan for Conference Education Society was read by the Rev. W. H. Heartz. On motion of Bro. McKewen seconded by Bro. F. H. Pickles the Report was received.

On motion it was read clause by clause, and adopted.

Rev. John Lathern moved and Rev. W. H. Heartz seconded a Resolution inviting Rev. W. Morley Pauson to visit the principal circuits of our Conference during the summer and autumn, and assist by means of lectures in the inauguration of our Conference Education Fund.

Benediction was pronounced, and session closed.

**THIRD DAY.**

Session opened at 9 a. m. by singing and prayer by Rev. G. O. Huestis. Journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

**FOURTH YEAR APPOINTMENTS, ETC.**

Application was made by stationing Committee for permission to appoint a brother for a fourth year to Bermuda. On motion it was refused.

Application from Stationing Committee for authority to make a fourth year appointment to Gabarus Circuit. On motion it was granted.

Application from Stationing Committee for permission to appoint two young men, the designated Institution, to circuits which was accepted.

Questions 11 were then taken up and disposed of, by Secretary of Conference reading the amounts contributed on the various Circuits to the Missionary Society, Contingent Fund, Home Mission Fund, Supernumerary Fund, and Educational Fund.

A Resolution was adopted providing that in the appropriation of Grant to Districts instead of the present method, the method in future should be such as to equalize the deficiency—each married minister having the same deficiency according to the mode observed in the distribution at the Financial District meetings to the Circuits.

Secretary of Contingent Fund reported, the income of the fund would only pay 59 per cent of the special cases recommended by the several Districts.

A minute, for printed Minutes, was read and adopted.

Rev. T. Watson Smith asked permission of Conference to be absent from his Circuit for six or eight weeks—it was granted.

Rev. John S. Peach asked to be permitted to visit England during the summer—it was granted.

**RESIGNATION.**

Rev. Wm. Ryan tendered his resignation to Conference on account of the health of his family, and requested a recommendation from this Conference to Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

On motion Bro. Ryan's resignation was accepted, and the Letter Writers instructed to prepare a recommendatory letter to be signed by the President.

**MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.**

Bro. Minchey requested permission to visit United States, which was granted.

Permission was granted to Trustees of Aylesford Parsonage to sell the property. The Trustees of the old church at Truro, asked permission to sell the same and appropriate the proceeds in the erection of the new church. Also to sell a strip of land for purpose of straightening boundary line—leave was granted.

Trustees of Parsonage at Sydney requested to be authorized to sell the parsonage property and purchase another—granted.

Permission was asked by the Trustees of Kaye Street Church, Halifax, to mortgage their church—granted.

**CONFERENCE EDUCATION SOCIETY.**

On motion of Rev. W. C. Brown, a public meeting was appointed to take place on Tuesday evening, in order to bring the claims of our newly formed Educational Society before the members and friends of our Church in Yarmouth.

Leave was given Rev. Joseph F. Bent to return home.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. G. M. Barratt.

The following Resolution was adopted, viz: That for the more expeditious discharge of the reports of the prosperity enjoyed by our Educational Institutions, and of the arrangements for the present year, was submitted, and on motion adopted.

The Conference by adoption of a similar minute expressed its appreciation of the services of Dr. DeWolfe and its confidence in the Rev. Dr. Stewart his successor.

**CHILDREN'S FUND AND CIRCUIT FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

The report of children's Fund and Circuit Finance Committee was presented and on motion adopted.

The third draft of Stations were laid on the table at 5 p. m., and Conference adjourned.

**SIXTH DAY.**

Conference opened at 9 a. m., singing and prayer by

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

The election by ballot of brethren to fill the offices of President and Co-Delegate, passed over from yesterday, resulted in the election of Rev. H. Sprague, Jr., as President, and Rev. S. W. Sprague, as Co-Delegate. Bro. Sprague said he felt under an irrepressible sense of indebtedness to his fathers and brethren for their kindness. He was sensible of the possession of no one particular qualification which this honor implied, and which they were disposed to recognize. His ambition was with a humble, zealous, useful Methodist preacher. If the British Conference should think proper to sanction the appointment, he hoped he would be able to discharge all the duties pertaining to the office. He should depend upon their prayers at the throne of the heavenly grace. Could only thank them for their kindness and esteem; prayed that under the favorable auspices of the President's administration the present year might be one of great prosperity.

Bro. Sprague said he felt gratified because of this expression of regard on the part of his brethren. Did not regard himself as possessing any one qualification for the office. The duties he knew would be light, and would not require much labor from him. He thought if they had wanted an ornament for the position they would have selected some other person. He was thankful to the Conference and would try to discharge the duties to the best of his ability.

**ADDRESS TO BRITISH CONFERENCE.**

The Address to the British Conference was read by the Rev. T. W. Smith and adopted.

**REPRESENTATIVE IN BRITISH CONFERENCE.**

Rev. Dr. Scott, of England, was requested to act as our representative in British Conference.

**CHAIRMAN.**

Conference proceeded to elect chairman for ensuing year, when the following were declared duly elected, viz:—Halifax, Rev. H. Pickard, D. D.; St. John, Rev. Henry Bro. Jr.; Truro, Rev. R. Morton; P. E. Island, Rev. G. S. Milligan, A. M.; Fredericton, Rev. I. Sutcliffe; Sackville, Rev. E. Brewster; Annapolis, Rev. James England; Liverpool, Rev. S. W. Sprague; Newfoundland, Rev. J. S. Peach.

A Committee was appointed to devise some scheme for relieving the whole Establishment from the painful embarrassments of former years.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. V. Jost.

**HOME MISSION FUND.**

The Report was read by Rev. James Taylor and on motion adopted.

**CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION.**

Nine young men presented themselves, recommended by their several Districts, for ordination. After an interesting examination of considerable length conducted by the President, they were, by formal vote of Conference in each case, received into full connexion. On motion it was ordered that arrangements be made for Ordination service on Monday Evening.

**FIFTH DAY.**

Conference opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. Joseph Gaetz.

After reading of the Journal, the President requested the Stationing Committee to be allowed to defer presentation of third draft of Stations until 4 o'clock, p. m.

The minutes for the afternoon were the election of Chief Officers and Chairmen of Districts. Programme for Ordination Service was submitted, and on motion adopted. A committee was appointed to prepare a Constitution for Home Mission Society.

**MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS.**

The Mount Allison Institutions being the order of the day, the Reports were received. President Allison, who had, with Professor Inch, been requested to take a seat on the platform, addressed the Conference in his usual felicitous style, and informed the Conference that he had engaged the services of Rev. Mr. Burwash, a Graduate of Victoria University, to fill the position of Vice President of the Institution. Mr. Inch also addressed the Conference. President of Conference spoke expressive of deep and continued interest in the Institutions.

Minutes of Theological Institution were read, also report of Rev. C. DeWolfe, D. D., adopted.

Order of business for to-morrow morning, Spiritual State of Connexion.

Report of committee to examine the District Minutes adopted.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. W. H. Heartz.

The Report was read by Rev. R. Duncan, and on motion adopted.

**PERMISSION TO SELL.**

1. Permission to sell a small lot was granted to Trustees of St. David's Circuit.

2. Milltown Trustees asked permission to sell a small corner lot and invest proceeds. Granted.

3. Bridgewater a similar request.

4. Trustees of Mill Village asked permission to sell a small piece of property for a road. Granted.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

1st. Ordered that a summary of Reports of Sunday-schools from various circuits shall be entered in District Minutes for use of Conference.

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On motion of Rev. W. C. Brown, a public meeting was appointed to take place on Tuesday evening, in order to bring the claims of our newly formed Educational Society before the members and friends of our Church in Yarmouth.

Leave was given Rev. Joseph F. Bent to return home.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. G. M. Barratt.

The following Resolution was adopted, viz: That for the more expeditious discharge of the reports of the prosperity enjoyed by our Educational Institutions, and of the arrangements for the present year, was submitted, and on motion adopted.

The Conference by adoption of a similar minute expressed its appreciation of the services of Dr. DeWolfe and its confidence in the Rev. Dr. Stewart his successor.

**CHILDREN'S FUND AND CIRCUIT FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

The report of children's Fund and Circuit Finance Committee was presented and on motion adopted.

The third draft of Stations were laid on the table at 5 p. m., and Conference adjourned.

**SIXTH DAY.**

Conference opened at 9 a. m., singing and prayer by

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

The election by ballot of brethren to fill the offices of President and Co-Delegate, passed over from yesterday, resulted in the election of Rev. H. Sprague, Jr., as President, and Rev. S. W. Sprague, as Co-Delegate. Bro. Sprague said he felt under an irrepressible sense of indebtedness to his fathers and brethren for their kindness. He was sensible of the possession of no one particular qualification which this honor implied, and which they were disposed to recognize. His ambition was with a humble, zealous, useful Methodist preacher. If the British Conference should think proper to sanction the appointment, he hoped he would be able to discharge all the duties pertaining to the office. He should depend upon their prayers at the throne of the heavenly grace. Could only thank them for their kindness and esteem; prayed that under the favorable auspices of the President's administration the present year might be one of great prosperity.

Bro. Sprague said he felt gratified because of this expression of regard on the part of his brethren. Did not regard himself as possessing any one qualification for the office. The duties he knew would be light, and would not require much labor from him. He thought if they had wanted an ornament for the position they would have selected some other person. He was thankful to the Conference and would try to discharge the duties to the best of his ability.

**ADDRESS TO BRITISH CONFERENCE.**

The Address to the British Conference was read by the Rev. T. W. Smith and adopted.

**REPRESENTATIVE IN BRITISH CONFERENCE.**

Rev. Dr. Scott, of England, was requested to act as our representative in British Conference.

**CHAIRMAN.**

Conference proceeded to elect chairman for ensuing year, when the following were declared duly elected, viz:—Halifax, Rev. H. Pickard, D. D.; St. John, Rev. Henry Bro. Jr.; Truro, Rev. R. Morton; P. E. Island, Rev. G. S. Milligan, A. M.; Fredericton, Rev. I. Sutcliffe; Sackville, Rev. E. Brewster; Annapolis, Rev. James England; Liverpool, Rev. S. W. Sprague; Newfoundland, Rev. J. S. Peach.

A Committee was appointed to devise some scheme for relieving the whole Establishment from the painful embarrassments of former years.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. V. Jost.

**HOME MISSION FUND.**

The Report was read by Rev. James Taylor and on motion adopted.

**CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION.**

Nine young men presented themselves, recommended by their several Districts, for ordination. After an interesting examination of considerable length conducted by the President, they were, by formal vote of Conference in each case, received into full connexion. On motion it was ordered that arrangements be made for Ordination service on Monday Evening.

**FIFTH DAY.**

Conference opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. Joseph Gaetz.

After reading of the Journal, the President requested the Stationing Committee to be allowed to defer presentation of third draft of Stations until 4 o'clock, p. m.

The minutes for the afternoon were the election of Chief Officers and Chairmen of Districts. Programme for Ordination Service was submitted, and on motion adopted. A committee was appointed to prepare a Constitution for Home Mission Society.

**MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS.**

The Mount Allison Institutions being the order of the day, the Reports were received. President Allison, who had, with Professor Inch, been requested to take a seat on the platform, addressed the Conference in his usual felicitous style, and informed the Conference that he had engaged the services of Rev. Mr. Burwash, a Graduate of Victoria University, to fill the position of Vice President of the Institution. Mr. Inch also addressed the Conference. President of Conference spoke expressive of deep and continued interest in the Institutions.

Minutes of Theological Institution were read, also report of Rev. C. DeWolfe, D. D., adopted.

Order of business for to-morrow morning, Spiritual State of Connexion.

Report of committee to examine the District Minutes adopted.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Session opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. W. H. Heartz.

The Report was read by Rev. R. Duncan, and on motion adopted.

**PERMISSION TO SELL.**

1. Permission to sell a small lot was granted to Trustees of St. David's Circuit.

2. Milltown Trustees asked permission to sell a small corner lot and invest proceeds. Granted.

3. Bridgewater a similar request.

4. Trustees of Mill Village asked permission to sell a small piece of property for a road. Granted.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

1st. Ordered that a summary of Reports of Sunday-schools from various circuits shall be entered in District Minutes for use of Conference.

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