

THE WESLEYAN.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1880.

THE BRITISH CONFERENCE OF 1880.

The one hundred and thirty-seventh session of this honored body commenced at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday the 23d ult. From our Methodist exchanges we glean some particulars respecting the first day's proceedings.

In the historic City Road Chapel, restored, not superseded, nearly one thousand Methodist ministers met on the morning of the 23d. The Rev. Benjamin Gregory, last year's President, took the chair. The son of a Methodist minister, and the grandson, we believe, of another, Mr. Gregory has won, through his own services to the Church, a high position. His literary labors have been of great value; and as editor he has given the Connexion periodicals a popularity never before equalled. His brethren rejoiced to see his health restored; he, himself, 'nervous and self-distrusting' as he is, must have been glad to reach the end of a year of serious responsibilities and unusually prominent effort.

To the Rev. Ebenezer E. Jenkins, M.A., elected President by 281 votes, and seated in Wesley's chair, Mr. Gregory handed Wesley's Bible, and the seals of the Conference. To an admirer of highly developed physical power, the President's brethren might feel bound to follow Johnson in his apology for Milton's lack of 'heroic stature,' but his countenance, indicative of superior mental powers and attainments, marks him as a man to be raised 'head and shoulders above his brethren' with perfect safety to their reputation as a body. The Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., of the Presbyterian Church of Canada is a brother, as is also D. J. Jenkins, Esq., Liberal member of the British Parliament. The late eccentric, but brilliant member for Dundee,—Edward Jenkins, is a nephew.

Apart from his qualifications as a gentleman, a scholar, a preacher, and a speaker of rare ability, the election of Mr. Jenkins may be looked upon as a tribute of regard for that large number of British Methodist ministers who have been, and are now, in foreign service. His ministerial life began in Madras, where he spent seventeen years. Some time after his return to England, he was called from circuit work and commissioned by the Missionary Committee to visit India, China, Japan, and other parts of the East, and report upon their missions in those quarters. It was, no doubt, in consequence of knowledge thus gained that a year later he was appointed to Bishopsgate-street as one of the Missionary Secretaries.

We have been pleased to observe that at certain conventions for the promotion of holiness, the newly-elected President has been a prominent speaker. He has himself said, on various occasions, as we learn from the Methodist, that the Brighton Convention was a great blessing to him. In his address to the Conference, keen, clear and incisive in style, as his utterances usually are, he does not forget to dwell with 'impressive emphasis' on the need of a 'more earnest and exclusive devotion' to the work of saving souls. Last year was one of special financial effort and success; but that very success, unless followed by special consecration, may prove a source of weakness. Methodism needs just now, and, if possible, more than ever, that baptism 'of the Holy Ghost and of fire' which made the ministry of the early preachers irresistible. The Watchman, after certain references to the 'intense realism and passionate earnestness of appeal which it finds in certain quotations from an article in the new number of the London Quarterly Review, on 'German Preachers and Preaching,' and which remind the writer of 'such preaching as that of Fletcher, Bradburn, Benson, Stoner, William Dawson, John Smith, and others of a like mind, among our successful evangelists a generation or more ago,' adds, 'O for a return to such plain speaking! O for a fresh baptism of such burning fire! O for such "thoughts that breathe in words that burn!" To

which in behalf of our fathers and brethren at home, and on behalf of ourselves—for we are one—we offer a most fervent response.

Marmaduke C. Osborn was re-elected Secretary by 319 in 365 votes. We fail to find any reference to that 'dressing-down' which, according to a floating paragraph in our dailies, he, probably instead of Dr. Osborn, is said to have administered to certain brethren who had taken a more active part in political movements than is warranted by the traditions of Methodism. The vacancies in the Legal Hundred were filled by the Revs. H. Hastling, Samuel Walker, and Thos. Brooks, by seniority; and John Baker, W. Wilson (D), T. Bowman Stephenson, and W. H. Dallinger, F. R. S., by election. Dr. Jobson, on making his appearance on the platform after his illness, was heartily cheered; to John Farrar and Samuel Coley, unable to be present, letters of sympathy were sent.

At the open session of Tuesday evening, Messrs. Arthur and McDonald, the delegates to America, were missed, as was Dr. Punshon, whom the Canadian Methodist authorities had asked to represent them in the absence of Mr. Coley. The delegates to America had not returned; Dr. Punshon was unwell: The speakers on the occasion were the President, the Revs. W. P. Appelbe, LL.D., B.D.,—President of the Theological College, Belfast; the Rev. John Kerr, President of the late Primitive Wesleyan Conference at the time of the union of that body with the Irish Conference, with Messrs. James Hocart and Wm. Gibson, from France. On Wednesday morning, at which our reports end, the Conference were about to consider the answer to the always solemn question—'Who have died during the year?' The Conference of 1881 is to be held in Liverpool.

THE OKA INDIANS.

Nearly three years have passed since, in several of the Methodist congregations of the Lower Provinces, collections were taken up in behalf of the Oka Indians of Quebec. Some of those who contributed to these collections may have ceased to think of the poor fellows they then sought to help. We are not prepared to blame them, since the almost total silence of the press upon one of the most glaring acts of injustice which we have heard has furnished a good excuse. Our readers, some of them at least, will be surprised to learn that with a persistence without a parallel in the annals of criminal prosecution, one of these patient sufferers has been for a fifth time before a Quebec court, on a charge of house-burning, and yet the Crown prosecutor, after a verdict of 'not guilty' had been given in the box, has peremptorily refused to discharge the forty-three other prisoners, who have given their own bonds to appear on the 2d of January next. To her former Province of Quebec, France might well turn just now, for a justification of her action in the expulsion of certain so-called religious orders, as hinderances to the course of righteous government. In the case of the Okas, the real persecutors are the Sulpicians, a rich Romanist corporation, holding a large amount of valuable lands in Montreal and other parts of the Province. On lands always supposed to be held in trust for them by the 'gentlemen of the Seminary,' the Okas lived in peace until, awakened to the evils of Roman Catholicism, they became Methodists, doing no discredit to the Church whose name they then took. Since that date they have been harassed in every possible method. Their fences have been destroyed, they have been prohibited from cutting wood, the church in which they worshipped has been pulled down, and their chief and others imprisoned. And yet after all possible efforts to convict them of the burning of the priest's house have failed, they are held in legal bonds. The triumph of innocence as obtained by one of their number at his fifth trial is to be, if possible, of slight avail. The Seminary has its definite purpose, not difficult to detect. Evidently, as a writer in the Witness remarks, its one hope is, in the absence of conviction, to worry out the friends of the oppressed Indians, and induce the latter to leave, and then the rich Seigneur, given in trust for them, will, by the deeds of concession, become—what it is not now—its absolute property. We are sorry to see that even the friends of the Okas are seriously talking of their removal. At this distance it seems to us that they ought, if willing, to remain where they are until Romanism has shown in this Dominion its cloven foot, and proved to the world, what the world is unwilling to

see, that it is prepared to grasp everything and grant nothing—avail itself of freedom where it cannot rule, and crush with iron heel all that stands in its way where it possesses power. And yet it is hard that the Okas should suffer to make Protestants see what they hesitate to see.

Two or three weeks since we informed our readers that a Methodist minister, the Rev. W. H. Dallinger, had received the rare distinction of a Fellowship in the Royal Society, as a recognition of his contributions to scientific knowledge. Mr. Dallinger's brethren have followed the honor conferred upon him by electing him a member of the confirming body in English Methodism—the Legal Hundred. His speech, in recognition of their choice, we copy from the Watchman. The Methodist says of it: 'It was not only happy, but memorable. As a morsel of autobiography it was most interesting. As a declaration by an eminent scientific man, of a most complete adherence to the faith, and still more as an explicit statement of a conscious experience of union with Jesus Christ, it is invaluable. A living faith does not need it; but the wavering minds of thousands will, we trust, be reassured by such an utterance.'

My dear brethren, I can only say that I esteem the honor which you put upon me yesterday as the very highest I have ever had or thought of having, because it comes from a spiritual and theological brotherhood, and points to spiritual and theological responsibilities. Those of us who are the very highest which can at least devolve upon me, and to be true to these responsibilities is my highest purpose and resolve. My relation to you has been, I trust, a loyal one. I have not a long Methodist past, therefore there are many who can surpass me in that matter, but I will yield to none in Methodist loyalty and Methodist love. Farther than that, I have endeavored, so far as I have the ability, to do an earnest work which has fallen in my path, and to which this Conference has appointed me. True enough, my peculiar bent of mind has called me a little—only a little—out of the ordinary path of a Methodist preacher's life. I should like, if you will permit me for a minute, to tell you just a few lines of the manner. Convinced by the grace of God, then consecrated to the work of the ministry, I resolved to put away every tendency of my mind save that which seemed to minister to theology and spiritual results. For this purpose I devoted the first four years of my ministerial life to earnest reading in classics and in Hebrew, and got tutors to help me. At the close of that time, or a year after, my health utterly failed. I had a year of superannuation, and among the many prescriptions of the doctors were these—I was not to read, and above all I was not to think! And yet I had to live! So I felt that I must do something to keep my hands from mischief and my tongue from guile, and I went into the fields and fell into my old love, gardening, and I commenced quietly scientific work. At the end of that twelve months, I submitted some work to one of the leading biologists of our age—very quietly, without a hope or thought that it meant anything, without a letter in which he tells me that if I give up that labour it will be to the peril of my moral life, inasmuch as there was work done of the highest order. At Liverpool, I asked the matter to some of my Christian friends, and asked, is it possible for me to engage in the study of these things and be a Methodist preacher? They thought it was, and I resolved at last that, although I knew that my heart would have to be extra labor, yet I would stick to that and be a Methodist preacher too. For twelve years I have labored. What I have done in the matter of science I can only say that I am thankful for it, and I further say that for the recognition which scientific circles have given for the work done in this sense alone—that it gives me a greater power and authority in the study of the Bible, and in the study of the science of the side of theology. And I tell you that, although in the past twelve years I have passed through many a struggle, and entered into a come out of many a cloud, I stand to-day with a clearer consciousness of my union with Christ as a Methodist preacher than at any preceding time. My resolve is still to keep by the old landmarks and do the old work, but still in scientific and other matters that are related to our investigation, and where knowledge leads me, and try to harmonize as I pass along. I may simply say, further, that my resolves in relation to this matter are very much controlled by the responsibility which you have been good enough to put upon me; I feel it in a very high degree. I cannot enter, and promise you to do my very utmost. (Applause.)

Beaconsfield's effort to obtain a satisfactory boundary to England's possessions in the East has proved a costly undertaking. The expense of the necessary interference in the affairs of the Afghans is already estimated at \$75,000,000, a large proportion of which is likely to be added to the national debt. Sad to say, just as the object in view seemed to be attained, a new movement on the part of those treacherous tribes, at whose hands Englishmen have received severe punishment in the past, has involved the heavier expense of the lives of a large number of British troops. There now remains to the British government only such energetic pursuit of the war as shall ensure its termination at the earliest possible moment. How many of General Burrows' command perished through under-estimation of Aykoob Khan's forces is not yet with certainty known. Had the latter not been so crippled as to be unable to continue the pursuit, the reported annihilation of the British troops in that part of the East might have been made a terrible fact. As it is, we await with no little anxiety the earliest tidings respecting the isolated garrisons, against whom the surrounding tribes may at any moment hurl their whole strength. In the meantime, the government, who since the late outbreak may calculate upon an amount of sympathy not given in the earlier stages of the war, are using all possible effort to send off reinforcements.

CENTENNIAL SABBATH SCHOOL CELEBRATION IN ST. JOHN, N.B.

An immense gathering of Sabbath-school children and their friends took place on Queen's Square, St. John, N.B., on Monday afternoon last. Two thousand scholars, and an equal number of spectators were supposed to be present. A stand erected in the centre of the Square was tastefully decorated with bunting, and a motto bearing the name of 'Baikes.' A large space, roped off, was sub-divided into ten sections for the use of the Schools, of which those from Carleton were the first to arrive.

At 3 p.m. Dr. Botsford took the chair, and after brief remarks called upon the audience to sing, 'All hail the power of Jesus' name.' After responsive Bible readings led by Mr. J. E. Irvine, the Rev. L. G. Stevens (Episcopal) led in prayer, the teachers and scholars uniting with him in repeating the Lord's prayer. The speakers for the day were the Revs. D. D. Currie, G. Hartley, and Dr. Waters, the Rev. Mr. Carey being unable to be present. The hymns were wisely chosen and the singing, under the leadership of Mr. T. H. Hall and a choir, was said to be spirited. Towards the close, the scholars recited the Apostle's Creed. They then sang 'God bless our Sunday School' and 'God Save the Queen,' after which the Rev. H. Daniel pronounced the benediction and the large numbers present left the Square. Throughout the services the utmost possible quiet was preserved.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The last number of the Canadian Illustrated News contains portraits of the officers of the Charlottetown, P. E. I. Engineer Corps.

A communication on our sixth page from the Rev. A. W. Nicolson, clerical Treasurer of the Church Extension and Parsonage Aid Fund of the N. S. Conference, deserves careful perusal.

In our correspondence column will be found an article from one of our leading laymen, on 'The Lay Ministry.' The subject is one of great importance to Methodists of the Lower Provinces.

The Book Steward is prepared to take orders at a very low rate for photographs of City Road Chapel, in which the English Conference is now being held. Their value is greater because they were taken before the late fire.

The Editor of the Fredericton Reporter in a brief review of the Annual Report of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, states some facts which remind us of the loss sustained by our Church in these Provinces by emigration, and of the corresponding gain to Methodism in the United States. To one Methodist Church in Boston, Woodstock, N. B., given a pastor, while Fredericton, N.B., furnishes its Sabbath-school with a superintendent. The latter, Mr. R. P. Winter, has received an urgent call to go as General Secretary of Y. M. C. Association in an important New England city, to which a good salary is attached. Only a few years since, as we were leaving a Methodist Church in East Boston, we were informed that the larger portion of the congregation had removed from the neighborhood of Barrington N. S. These are one or two instances which serve as an index to many scores of cases. How defective, after all, in giving a true idea of our work, are those figures, which year after year, at our Annual Conference, either elate or depress us.

'Lex' submits the following questions: 1—Is it in accordance with the letter and spirit of our Discipline, that laymen who are not members of our Church be appointed to serve on Conference Committees? 2—Is there, to your knowledge, any instance of a supernumerary minister being elected President of a Methodist Conference? Would it not be perfectly legitimate for any of our Conferences to make such an appointment, if they deemed it expedient?

'Lex' should have submitted these questions to the President of his Conference. We disclaim the right to become expounders of the Discipline of the Church. Our simple opinion is worth no more than his own. We may, however, remark that we can see no warrant for the choice of laymen for Conference Committees, from those whose names are not on our lists of membership. If we mistake not, a supernumerary minister was elected in 1878 to the chair of one of the Western Conferences. Such action may be lawful, but we cannot, except under circumstances so rare as to form no precedent, deem it expedient.

In our list of deaths there appears the name of a lady well known to all our ministers who have been in Newfoundland. We refer to that of Mrs. Bemister, wife of John Bemister, Esq., Sheriff of the Northern District. Of a brief visit paid to her home a year or two since, we have very pleasant recollections. Her son-in-law, the Rev. Chas. Ladner, in a private note says of her: She was one of the most devoted women I have ever known. Her charity to the poor, and kindness to all who came within her influence will long be remembered. During the last fourteen years she has been a great sufferer, but endured her Father's will without a murmur. After living a useful life she has fallen asleep in Jesus. I spent a few days with her, and returned only on Friday last. She entered her eternal home on Sabbath evening without a struggle. Many conversations had with her, respecting her conversion, religious experience through a long period, and her unshaken hope unto eternal life. Among her last sayings to me, she assured me "all was well. I have such a view of Jesus and heaven, "Ask my Father to call me home."

We are glad to learn that the absence of the Princess Louise is only to be for a definite period. It is unfortunate that reports should have been put in circulation calculated to cool the regard which she has won throughout the Dominion, not only through the position which she occupies, but in consequence of the interest taken by her in the various institutions of the country.

No item of telegraphic news, during the last week, has caused more anxiety than that announcing Gladstone's illness. Upon his life, to no small extent, the interests of England and the Empire seem to depend. No name commands more respect at home or abroad than that of the illustrious commoner, now the Prime Minister of the kingdom. An attack of congestion such as is reported need not cause serious anxiety in ordinary cases, but in that of a man of seventy years, worried by the pressure of a most trying session, and depressed it may be by the sudden change in affairs in the East, it affords cause for dread. We are happy to learn that at latest advices appearances favor the hope of the Premier's early recovery.

PERSONAL.

Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D., our Missionary Secretary, is visiting the mission stations in the North-West.

Rev. A. McKeown, D.D., spent Sunday the 25th at Wolfville, where he preached in the evening to a full congregation a powerful and encouraging sermon from Luke 17-5.

Rev. C. B. Pitblado, formerly of the Provincial Conferences, has been lecturing at Windsor and Wolfville on 'Odd Church People.' The lecture, replete with anecdote, wit and point, was, as are all Mr. Pitblado's lectures, well received.

The Rev. S. B. Dunn, pastor of the Grafon Street Church, arrived by the 'Nova Scotian' on Friday last, after a brief, but pleasant, visit to his native land. The call of the steamer at Saint John's, N.B., enabled him to see a few of his many friends in that city.

James A. Halliday, Esq., late of the Berwick Star, has removed to this city, where he has filled up the Hastings House. His business card will be found in another column.

Rev. J. G. Angwin, and family sailed for Bermuda on Monday morning last. The day on which they sailed was quite as warm as any they are likely to experience in their new home. We predict for them the welcome with which Bermudian Methodists always greet their pastors.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

LANDRY'S Musical Journal for August contains the usual quantity of music at the usual cheap rate.

The American Agriculturist for August—ORANGE JUDD COMPANT, 245 Broadway, N. Y.—is quite up to the usual high standard of that publication. Its 'Talk about Medicines' is a valuable article for general readers.

Messrs. DE APPLETON & Co., send the North American Review for August. The first article introduces a subject of deep interest—the ruins of ancient cities in Central America. Several travellers, American and European, have visited these and have written deeply interesting volumes in regard to their immense architectural monuments, their elaborated decorations, their singular, uninterpolated bas-reliefs and tablets, but as yet no light has been thrown upon the origin of the people who built these cities. Recently a well-equipped expedition has been despatched to Central America, charged with the work of searching for everything that may tend to place within the domain of history the facts connected with a people whose career must have been one of the most interesting in the general development of the world's civilization. A full account of the explorations of the party is to be published from month to month in the North American Review, with illustrations of the most important objects discovered. Other articles in this number of the Review are 'The Law of Newspaper Libel,' by John Proffatt; 'The Census Laws,' by Charles F. Johnson; 'Nullity of the Emancipation Edict,' by Richard H. Dana; 'Principles of Taxation,' by Prof. Simon Newcomb; 'Prince Bismarck as a Friend of America and as a Statesman,' by Moritz Busch; and 'Recent Literature,' by Chas. T. Congdon.

LITTELL'S Living Age:—The numbers of The Living Age for the weeks ending July 24th and 31st respectively, contain the following articles: 'The Slavonic Menace to Europe, Quarterly'; 'A Few Weeks upon the Continent, Contemporary'; 'Atheism and Repentance, a Familiar Colloquy, by W. H. Mallock, Nineteenth Century'; 'Fishing and Fishing Literature, Blackwood'; 'Victor Hugo, Temple Bar'; 'Sterne, Cornhill'; 'Scientific Results of the Howgate Expedition, 1877-78, Sir John Lubbock on the Habits of Ants, and Sign Language among the American Indians, Nature'; 'Heresy in Science, Pall Mall Gazette'; 'The Nature of an Oath, Spectator'; with instalments of Mrs. Oliphant's Story. 'He that will not when he may,' and the usual amount of poetry.

A new volume begins with July 1st. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

The National Repository for August from WALDEN & STOWE, Cincinnati, loses none of its interest, though its death in December is decreed. It bids fair to die, as some one has said, with none of its force abated. Its illustrated articles are 'The Valley of Mexico,' and 'The Song of the Brook.' Among other papers are 'Wordsworth, An Ascent of Ararat, The Oil Region of Pennsylvania, Christianity at the Sources of the Nile, and Leyden and its University. Its items and notes are of unusual variety and point.

RELIEF AND EXCISE LIST.

NOVA SCOTIA.

MILL VILLAGE CIRCUIT. Mill Village, \$5.00; C. D. Mack, 2.00; Mrs. S. V. Mack, 1.00; Allan Mack, 1.00; Small subscriptions, 1.00.

N. B. AND P. E.

ST. STEPHEN CIRCUIT—S. Almond, pd., \$1.00; John A. Boyd, pd., 2.00; T. M. Boyd, pd., 2.00; Isaiah Bridges, pd., 2.00; Elsie Broad, pd., 12.50; Z. Chipman, pd., 20.00; Mrs. Cochran, pd., 2.00; J. F. Grant, pd., 2.00; Eben Hall, pd., 1.00; Wm. Harris, pd., 1.00.

MONTAGUE CIRCUIT—CH.

Union Road. A. McDougall, pd., \$1.00; H. Harper, pd., 1.00; E. Lane, pd., 2.00; John Mellich, pd., 2.00; Jas. Mellich, pd., 1.00; J. A. Moore, pd., 2.00; Collection, pd., 2.00; Robert Mellich, pd., 1.00; A. Mellich, pd., 1.00; J. Mellich, pd., 1.00.

CORNWALL CIRCUIT—CH.

M. Boyle, pd., \$4.00; J. E. Burke, pd., 1.00; J. W. Crosby, pd., 10.00; T. D. Crosby, pd., 5.00; Samuel Drake, pd., 1.00; Hugo Erickson, pd., 1.00; Rob. Frizzle, pd., 1.00; J. Howard, pd., 5.00; Chas. Hyde, pd., 10.00; S. Howard, sr., pd., 10.00.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 1880.

THE SUPERINTENDENT are reminded, that the 31st August is the day appointed making the ANNUAL CO of the above Fund. And the amount is to be transmitted to the General Treasurer of the Conference, for the to the General Treasurer of the Conference, C. ST. Sackville, July 24th 1880.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The missing notes of porter reached us by the every item of interest, and copied subjects only call for space.

The Educational meeting of which continued pronounced 'the best Island.' A Report of Committee, as amended, recommended 'the Abstinence Societies at on all circuits and meetable.' It also recommended of unfermented wine purposes. Henceforth, a meeting is to be with each Conference.

of the relation of Ch and call to the ministry who were ordained, or vered by President Doy mentioned in high terms the Conference for publications respecting the given; we presume the the printed Minutes. proposed increase in all numerary ministers. Consideration was given for more ministry the summer months coast. The members learned with deep satisfaction of a beloved brother, J. Bond, to resume his assured him of their 'wishes.'

PASTORAL A.

OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND METHODIST CHURCH MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

Dear Beloved Brethren Assembled again, thro God, in Annual Conference ourselves of the privilege Confidential usage of address pertaining to your and the general interests which we have the happiness With sincere affection and fraternal salutation, we greet you, and bring that God may fulfill pleasure in his goodness, faith with power.

We cherish the belief word from us to assure you abiding interest in all welfare. Our past inter-trust, has made manifest, lightly esteemed by us, to you. Your joys thrill and your sorrows weigh We rejoice with you in prosperity, and are no less by you when the shadow the fountains of grief are fort you with the comfort selves are comforted of G we rejoice in the evident review of our position that ing with us and by us.

The drawings of an un been powerfully in during the past year. On extensive revivals have scores have been brought light, and from the power and have been sheltered. Good Shepherd; but we those who are still wander be reclaimed as the result Prayers and co-operation. The reports from our SA