

The Wesleyan,

41

Longworth I Esq

Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
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. XXXI.

HALIFAX, N.S., FEBRUARY 8, 1879.

No. 6

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE METHODIST BOOK ROOM, 125 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX, N.S.

Forty-five Cents each.

- Little Ray and Her Friends. By Ruth Elliott. Five page illustrations.
- Neil's Motto, or, Little by Little. By the author of "Faithful and True." Tony Starr's Legacy. Six page illustrations.
- Broken Purposes; or, The Good Time Coming. By Lillie Montfort. Five page illustrations.
- The Breakfast Half-hour. Addresses on Religious and Moral Topics. By the Rev. H. R. Burton. Twenty five illustrations.
- Cleanings in Natural History for Young People. Profusely illustrated.
- The Stony Road; A Tale of Humble Life. "Wee Donald's" Sequel to "Stony Road."
- Stories for Willing Ears. For Boys. By T. S. E. Stories for Willing Ears. For Girls. By T. S. E. Thirty Thousands Pounds; and other Sketches from Daily Life.
- An Old Sailor's Yarn; and other Sketches from Daily Life.
- The Royal Road to Riches. By E. H. Miller. Fifteen illustrations.
- David Livingstone, Missionary and Discoverer. By the Rev. T. Marritt. Fifteen full page illustrations.
- The Father of Methodism. A Sketch of the Life and Labours of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M. For Young People. By Mrs. Cosslett. Numerous illustrations.
- Clippings—Avery's Story of Successful Christian Work. By the Rev. Frederick W. Briggs. M.A. With an introduction by the Rev. W. Arthur, M.A. Eleven illustrations.
- Above the Breakers. Florida Ross.
- The Old Oak Farm. Henryman's Family.
- Edie Knott. The Exiles.
- High and Low. Cicely Brown's Trials.
- After the Holiday. Lea's Playground.
- Jesse's Troubles. Grace's Visit.
- Edie's Dream. Margaret Browning.
- Walter's Mistake. Down in a Mine.
- Miss Irving's Bible. Breaking the Rules.
- Bertie's Birthday Present. Corrie; a Story for Christmas.

From Call and Ing is List.

- The Cord of Love.
- Elke's Mission.
- Frank Harper, or Beginning Life.
- Early Duties and Early Dangers.
- Edie Morris, or Which Do I Love Best.
- Breca on the Waters.
- Agnes Leith, or the Path and the Lamp.
- Bertie Corrie the Fisher Boy.
- Huan Nohz.
- Lucy and Her Friends.
- Fanny Raymond.
- The African Trader.
- Ned Turner, or Wait a Little.
- Waihoua, A New Zealand Story.
- The Trapper's Son.
- Janet McLaren, The Faithful Nurse.
- Mary Liddiard, A Tale of the Pacific.
- Althea Norton.
- Gertrude's Bible Lesson.
- The Rose in the Desert.
- The Little Black Hen.
- Martha's Hymn.
- Nettie Mathieson.
- The Prince in Disguise.
- The Children of the Plains.
- The Babe in the Basket.
- Richard Harvey, or, Taking a Stand.
- Kit y King; Lessons for Little Girls.
- Nettie's Mission.
- Little Margery.
- Margery's City Home.
- The Crossing Sweeper.
- Ross Conroy.
- Ned Nolan's Garret.
- Little Heury and his Bear.
- Little Woodman and his Dog.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNIONS.

- My Dear, Dear Saviour.
- The Unseen Hand.
- Going Home.
- Helen Lindsave.
- Labors of Love.
- Willie's Good Bye.
- Work in a Waste Place.
- Bread Found after Many Days.
- In the Cornfields: The Story of Ruth.
- My Mother's Prayers.
- The Saved Class.
- The Reward of a Life's Work.
- The Martyrs of Scotland.
- Neddy Bruce.
- Favorite Animals.

Valuable Gift Books.

- IN HANDSOME BINDINGS.
- Shakespeare, a complete new edition, in handsome and durable binding, half morocco, excellent clear type, Six vols in a box 10 00
- Shakespeare. The same as the above in cloth, gilt lettered, very pretty, 6 vols in a box 5 00
- Dawn to Daylight, or Gleams from the Poets of Twelve Centuries, with above 200 Illustrations. A beautiful gift 6 25
- The Birthday Book of Flower and Song the handsomest book of the season, containing extracts from the works of the best English Poets, beautifully illustrated and printed in colors. Dedicated by permission to Her Royal Highness the Marchioness of Lorne 4 00
- Ballads and Songs, Historical and Legendary. Uniform with "Dawn to Daylight." 6 25
- Keble's Christian Year, elegantly bound and printed and illustrated 6 25

Thirty Cents Each.

- FROM LONDON BOOK ROOM.
- The Tarnside Evangel. Eight Illustrations.
- Robert Dawson; or, The Brave Spirit. Four page illustrations.
- The Meadow Daisy. By Lillie Montfort. Numerous illustrations.
- The Royal Disciple: Louisa, Queen of Prussia. By C. B. Hurst. Six illustrations.
- No Gains without Pains: a True Life for the Boys. By H. C. Knight. Six illustrations.
- The Railway Pioneers; or, The Story of the Stephenson, Father and Son. By H. C. Knight. Fifteen illustrations.
- Peeps into the Far North; Chapters on Iceland, Lapland, and Greenland. By S. E. Scholes. Twenty-four illustrations.
- The Giants, and How to Fight Them. By Dr. Newton. Fifteen illustrations.
- "I'll Try," or, How the Farmer's Son became a Captain. Ten illustrations.
- Tiny Tim: a Story of London Life. Founded on Fact. By Francis Horner. Twenty-two illustrations.
- Stories of Love and Duty. For Boys and Girls. Thirty-one illustrations.
- John Tregneweth; His Mark. By Mark Guy Pearce. Twenty-five illustrations.
- Vignettes from English History. By Rev. J. Yames. First Series. From the Norman Conqueror to Henry IV. 25 illustrations.
- Margery's Christmas Box. By Ruth Elliott. Sixty illustrations.
- Lessons from Noble Lives; and other stories. Thirty-one illustrations.
- Ancient Egypt: its Monuments, Worship, and People. By the Rev. Edward Lightwood. Twenty six illustrations.

TO THE FOSSIL FERN LEAF.

And thou didst wave beneath this very sky,
Ere Adam sang his Eden hymn of praise,
And far too beautiful a thing to die,
Thou reappearst after many days,
Many long days and months and years have flown
And ages countless in their ebb and flow
Since first thou didst those pale green leaves unfold
Hiding thyself the Canaanites below.
The mighty forests waving proudly then,
Now turn the paddle by the steamer's side,
And reeds as lofty as the palm tree's main
Break into fragments for the pavements wide.
When yet there was no man to till the earth,
Thy leaf we with morn and evening dew;
And ere the eldest Adamite had birth,
New forests waved where once the fern leaf grew.

The fern leaf changed, transfixed on changing
clime,
Entombed forever in its rocky cast—
Destined to triumph e'er all age and time.
And binding each creation with the past,
Old leaf! thou hast outlived the world's
young age.
And things less frail and beautiful than thee,
Yet here thou art upon the rocky page,
And every fibre of thy form we see,
O Thou! above all changed, unchanged by
time,
Outliving time, and reigning God forever,
And that thou biddest live shall perish never,
Lay to this body as to this frail leaf,
Thou too shalt live when days are past and gone;
Thy soul shall far outlive times ages brief,
Thy body rise and put its glory on!

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

MR. SPURGEON AND HIS CHURCH.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Mr. Spurgeon is just completing his twenty-fifth year as pastor of the church and people associated with the famous Tabernacle. It is not needful to attempt a description of the marvellous success which has attended his labors, or to describe the various important agencies for religious and philanthropic work which at present cluster around Mr. Spurgeon, and are liberally supported by his people. It was determined a little while ago, to mark the completion of the 25th year, by presenting a handsome testimonial, and the amount was fixed at about £5000. This Mr. Spurgeon was willing to receive, not for himself, even to the smallest portion, but as an endowment for the aims-houses connected with the Tabernacle, and in which a number of aged Christians are well provided for. Subscribers were freely offered, and a bazaar on a large scale has recently been held, so that at present the fund has attained to the sum of £6,500. In the midst of all this interest and joyous excitement, Mr. Spurgeon has been laid aside by severe affliction and is not at present equal to any pastoral work. His place is well supplied by his brother, who is the assistant pastor of the church; and occasionally by his two sons, who are both acceptable and able preachers. The great building is well filled with worshippers, and is a centre of much blessing and power. The famous minister is well worthy of the intense love and admiration which his own people lavish upon him, and in connection with this epoch in his career, the testimonies of his worth and extent and value of the work he has accomplished have been numerous and hearty, even from some who have widely differed in their views of his doctrines.

THE THANKSGIVING FUND is just now being presented to the various London circuits, each of which is holding a central meeting, and gathering up the smaller amounts, which were not likely to be presented at the great aggregate gathering at City Road. As far as these circuit meetings have been held the results have been very satisfactory, and the £33,000, which was at first promised has now swelled up to £40,000. Much more is yet to be gleaned in the two London districts, and probably the total for London Methodism will be £45,000. This is a grand start for the great Connexional effort, and has removed, or rebuked the fears with which many were led to regard the application to our churches for such an immense amount of money. The movement has stirred the hearts of many, and one good man, possessed of wealth, and anxious to do good in a permanent form, has offered £10,000 for the establishment of another branch of Mr. Stephenson's great work in the Children's Home, in the form of a Methodist Orphanage for the children of our own people who may be left destitute. The generous offer will be accepted, and further help granted from the Thanksgiving Fund, so that ere long we may hope to see the establishment of a home

for many orphans, and provision for their godly training in the church of their fathers.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

The new Pope has not yet made any great stir in the church or in Rome, neither has he exhibited any marks of distinguished ability. He appears to be carefully watching the course of events, in the hope that something may turn up, out of which he may be able to extract a little more prestige for his church, and for himself as occupant of the Papal Throne. His recent Encyclical Letter is a curious compound of the old high and ultra claims which Rome is ever putting forth, and at the same time offering refuge, shelter and peace to the distracted nations of Europe. It is not as all likely that they will be able to see in that light, or that they will be at all inclined to yield any of the hard earned privileges they now possess, for the very doubtful successor that the See of Rome is prepared to offer. All the while these overtures are being made, it is asserted that the supplies at the Vatican are running low. The amount paid in as

PETER'S PENCE for the sustentation of the Holy Father is very slim indeed. A necessity exists for some new departure, a new crusade in some direction, to excite fresh compassion and procure new and enlarged contributions to keep the costly Papal court in respectable and easy circumstances.

THE WAR is not in any way exciting at present. The troops are busy in fortifying themselves in the advanced position they have gained. The enemy is not offering any formidable or organized opposition, and our Government appear solely at a loss to know what to do with the territory which they have so easily conquered.

TRADE AND COMMERCE continue in a state of extreme depression. More bank failures are reported, and there is a feeling of great insecurity on every hand. The rigor of the weather has again pressed heavily upon the laboring population and closed many of the out-door employments, causing thousands to suffer want. It has so far been a most trying winter, by far the coldest, and the most depressed of the twelve I have spent in this country.

Jan. 15, 1879.

BISHOP SIMPSON ON MINISTERIAL POWER.

(EXTRACTS FROM 6TH LECTURE.)

The spiritual force in its highest human manifestation is ministerial power. It employs and utilizes all other forms as its agents. It uses the power of thought, which is immense in its character—the thoughts not only of good men, but of angels and of God—thoughts which were from eternity, and thoughts which shall triumph when earth's history shall have closed. It uses the power of language in all its multifarious forms. Its tongue of fire is to preach among all nations, and to carry to every heart, through its own peculiar idiomatic expression, the knowledge of the power and love of God. It employs oratory in its highest efficiency, and how great is that influence which man may exercise over his fellow man! Listen to the eloquence of Demosthenes, as he stirred the people of Athens as a sea is stirred by the storm with his wonderful Philippics. See how Cicero moved the Roman people and the Roman Senate. Look at the power of Peter the Hermit arousing the nations of Europe to that fearful Crusade; the power which such men as Burke and Fox and Pitt and Sheridan displayed in the British Parliament; the power which Napoleon exercised over his soldiers by his short, fiery speeches as he pointed to the enemy on the battle-fields of Europe, or called them to behold how forty centuries looked down upon them from the top of the pyramids of Egypt. If there be, as it is claimed by some, a magnetic power which kindles in the eye and sparkles responsively from the speaker to the hearer, and from the hearer to the speaker—it there be some subtle current established between them which is manifested in the energy of the speaker and the rapt attention of the hearer—an indescribable force flowing in some way from the intensity of a soul speaking to souls, all that power is subservient to the true and faithful minister.

What, then, shall he do that he may be the most eminently successful?

First, there should be an entire consecration of every moment of time and of every power of body and soul to the service of God. If we expect the Divine Spirit to dwell in us, the heart should be made ready for his reception. Like the sacrifice of old, we, as living sacrifices, should be without spot and blemish. "Know ye not," saith the apostle, "that your bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost? If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." That Spirit is to dwell with us and abide in us. Every faculty, every power belongs wholly to God; and we, set apart for his service, have a grand and holy mission among men. Yet as Jesus took upon him the form of a servant, and cared for the sorrows and miseries of the wretched, so while our mission elevates it does not separate us from the masses of men about us. We are to mingle with them, to love them, to enlighten and to save them.

Secondly, there must not only be consecration, but earnest prayer. It is God's pleasure to be entreated. Prayer is necessary, not only that we might receive, but that we might be in a condition to receive. We must first feel deeply the need of the Holy Spirit, that we may ask it. Seeing the responsibility laid upon us, the magnitude of the work, and our own insufficiency, and that there is no power adequate but that of the Holy Spirit, we pray for it; we wait in earnest supplication as the disciples waited the ten days from the ascension to pentecost. So must we wait until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high; but we must wait as they waited, in the fulfillment of duty among the people of God in the temple worshipping, praising, and blessing God. We must wait expectantly, we must wait assuredly, not for any miraculous power, nor for conscious endowment, but with a full conviction that God will so take possession of our memory, reason and imagination, of our strength and of our learning, that each and all of them, vitalized by his own power, shall be made to glow with such heat that they shall burn their way by the truth to the hearts and consciences of those who hear us.

Thirdly, to intense prayer must be added fasting. If I am asked how fasting can bring spiritual power, I cannot answer satisfactorily. I simply know that Jesus hath said: "This sort cometh not out but by prayer and fasting." He had given his disciples power against unclean spirits, yet here was one brought to them which they could not cast out. It reigned only in the more fiery because of their efforts, and when Jesus came the sorrowing father applied to him. One word was sufficient, and the unclean spirit fled. The bewildered disciples asked the Master why they could not cast him out, and received the answer I have quoted. This implies different degrees of spiritual power—power sufficient to reach some hearts, but not all. But who that loves his Master does not covet a power sufficient to rescue the vilest of the vile, and to bring the strongest offender to the foot of the cross. While I cannot tell how the fasting operates, I can see that it is both a sign of deep feeling, and that it adds to its intensity. Who has not felt a sorrow that made him for the time regardless of food? Who has not been so absorbed that he has forgotten the hours, and passed beyond the time of his meals? With a dear one on the bed of death, how tasteless and valueless is food? So if there be an intensity of prayer that absorbs the soul, we become like him who said, "I have meat to eat ye know not of," and again, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me."

RELIGIOUS ITEMS.

As an indication of the rapidity with which Christianity is making its way in Japan, it is stated that one of the leading printing offices in Tokio has begun the publication of a paper in the interest of the Christian religion as a matter of enterprise. It is solely a native undertaking, none of the missionaries having anything to do with it.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN BISHOP OF CANADA.—The newly elected Metropolitan bishop of Canada, has been bishop of Fredericton nearly thirty-four years, and has had therefore a colonial experience connecting with the Church greater than any of his peers. A scholar of England's great University, a man of energy, talent and unaffected piety, he will worthily preside over the Anglican branch of the Church

of Canada. His Metropolitan See will be in Fredericton, where there is a Cathedral worthy of the Church. The Most Reverend John Medley is by birth an Englishman, and in his 75th year, but is as active as a man of sixty. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1826 with high honors. For some years he was vicar of St. Thomas, Exeter, where Rev. Mr. Swabey now is, and was prebendary of Exeter Cathedral. He was consecrated first Bishop of Fredericton in 1845.—Herald.

A PROTEST.—A protest has been entered against the election of the Bishop of Fredericton as Metropolitan. Heretofore the Bishop of Montreal has been ex-officio Metropolitan of Canada; but the Bishops did not want to have to accept their head as a matter of course, a Bishop chosen for them by the Diocese of Montreal; and the Synod of Montreal did not want to have the House of Bishops refuse to consecrate the man of their choice as their Bishop simply because the Bishops did not want him for their head. So with the election of the new Bishop the present system came into operation. We presume that somebody who thinks that Montreal cannot or ought not to resign her right to the Metropolitan See has protested. It will amount to nothing, however.—St. John Globe.

The pulpit took a free hand in the late Massachusetts election, the clergy manifesting their preferences and dislikes as distinctly as they could without calling names. Father Taylor, the well-remembered seaman's preacher of Boston, was in his day, more outspoken. It was on the occasion of an exciting contest, in which temperance was the absorbing question. Thus he wrestled with the Lord in prayer: "O Lord! give us good men to rule over us—pure men who fear Thee, religious men, temperate men, men whom we can trust, men who—Pshaw! O Lord! what's the use of veering and baulking and boxing round the compass?—give us George N. Briggs for Governor. Amen!" and the prayer was answered.

When we made an excursion in Southern Utah not long ago we were hospitably entertained by the Mormon bishop at Richfield. He was a Scotchman, and had been brought up a rigid Presbyterian. "Ah, well," said he, "they think well of me at home for changing my religion; but there was my brother Aleck who took it most to heart. He was on his way to California, and turned off the road a bit to see me, and try to bring me back into the fold. When he got here he spent the whole evening in lecturing me, and then went to bed. In the morning I gave him the best breakfast the country could afford—coffee and rolls, trout, beef and venison steak, and such like. Poor Aleck! he looked all over the table, and then turned upon me his sorrowful face, blurted out, 'Oh, Jamie, mon! Jamie, mon! did I ever think it would come to this? I could hae forgiven ye a' yer polegammy, but hae ye given up yer parritch?'"

A paper on the other side of the Atlantic recently printed the following specimen of plain preaching by a coloured Georgia minister:—

"Brethren, my 'perience is dat it ain't the perfection of 'ligion, but de 'casional practice of it dat makes a man 'ceptable up yonder. When ye sits to the golden gate and Peter looks ye right in the eye and yer shows him yer long creed and says, pompous-like, dat yer 'longed to de big 'Dat aint nuff ter get yer through.' But if yer takes all yer bills under yer arm, yer grocer bills an' yer rent bills, an' ed, he'll say, 'Yer title's clear, an' un-locked de gate an' let ver pitch yer voice for de angels' song. But it ain't no use ter trammel path less yer can carry, folded up in yer creed, a good recommendation from yer creditors. Helben aint no place for a man who has to dodge round a corner for fear of meeting some one who'll ask for dat little bill dat never was paid.' X.X.Y.

A correspondent of the *Christian Intelligencer* writes: "In Milan, Turin, Pisa, Florence, and notably in Rome, I gleaned but one impression—that the Papal Church was fatally and irretrievably losing its hold upon the masses of Italy. An eminent man, who enjoys the friendship of the present pope, remarks in an article furnished to a late number of the

Contemporary Review, that 'if the word Protestant could be accepted as the synonym of anti-Papal, the people of Italy are at the present moment the most Protestant nation in the world.' Go from one cathedral to another, and while you witness the pageant of the ritual, or listen to the richest music, you look about you and wonder at the absence of worshippers. The splendid churches remain, but the spirit which once builded them is gone. They remain, but instead of being thronged with eager worshippers, they are only vast ecclesiastical show-shops, and shrines for the worshippers of art alone. Indeed they seemed painfully like the mausoleums of a dead faith.

MR. SPURGEON.—THE REV. J. JACKSON WRAY AT THE TABERNACLE.—The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon arrived in Paris on Friday last, on their way to Mentone, in the south of France, where he intends residing for some three months for the benefit of his health. The services on Sunday morning at the Metropolitan Tabernacle were conducted by the Rev. J. Jackson Wray, of the Wandsworth Circuit, who read the following letter from Mr. Spurgeon: "Paris, Friday. Beloved friends, by God's gracious care I have journeyed thus far, and feel already that pain and sickness are losing their dominion over me. The weather has been extremely favorable, and if it continues so a few days longer I hope I shall reach my destination with comparative ease. This is enough about myself. Now may every blessing rest upon you all in my absence and may the esteemed brother, who in an emergency so generously consented to fill my place, have your hearty prayers, that his ministry among you may win many souls to Jesus. You have just lately brought all the tithes into the storehouse, and now you may look for a great blessing. Does not the promise so run? 'On arriving here to-night I have been greatly saddened by the intelligence of the death of the wife of our beloved brother Mr. Merrill. You know well with what diligence he serves the church and labors for all. He is greatly afflicted, for he has a tender heart. I pray you therefore, as you would wish to be upheld in the hour of bereavement, plead for him that the Comforter may cheer him. My love with you all, Yours for Christ's sake, C. H. SPURGEON."

GENERAL ITEMS.

Siemens' electric light will, it appears be experimented upon at Redruth on Monday evening next, when a grand county foot-ball match is announced; the game to be played by "the light of the future."

The Japanese Government never until now has authorized any portion of the Scriptures to be published in that country. Recently it gave authority to a Japanese publisher to print an edition of the book of Genesis in the Chinese language.

Princess Louise has signified her willingness to become lady patroness of the Ladies' Protestant Home, Quebec.

Following the example of her Royal mother who, in cases of triplets being born in her dominions, sends the parents three pounds, Princess Louise has presented Mrs. McNulty, of Montreal with that amount.

An English company proposes to construct a line of railway from Zanzibar to Lake Victoria Nyanza, at a cost of ten million sterling and launch steamers on the interior waters of Africa. A remunerative trade is confidently expected, and the wants of hundreds of millions of Africans will help to run the English looms and work-shops.

THE GREAT CLOCK OF MANCHESTER.—The great clock and carillons in the tower of the Manchester Townhall, the greatest work of the kind in the world, were started on Wednesday at noon by the Mayor, many thousands of persons crowding the square to hear the carillons. The big bell upon which the hours are struck weighs six tons nine hundred weight, and the other bells form an almost chromatic scale of twenty-one, reaching within half a note of two octaves.