

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, February 15, 1851.

DISTRICT FUNDS.

To the Editor of the Wesleyan.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—As the current ecclesiastical year is hastening to its termination, I beg leave to call the earnest attention of our Ministers and Members to the necessity of prompt and liberal action in support of the contingent Fund, and the Supernumeraries' and Ministers' Widows' Fund for this District. Much is dependent on the reports to be sent to the District Meeting, as to the result of the appeals made to our Wesleyan Friends in behalf of these objects. The first of these funds is to be devoted to the gradual liquidation of the heavy arrears due to the Ministers of the District, for the assistance of poor Circuits, and to the extension of the work. The present income of the District forbids the reasonable hope of increasing the number of labourers on some of the circuits now occupied, and where additional agency is pressing. Further accumulation of deficiencies cannot be borne by the brethren already suffering painful inconvenience from the withholding of the sufficiently limited income to which they are entitled,—deficiencies amounting in several individual cases to from Fifty to Eighty Pounds. Indeed, the Contingent Fund must be sustained, or the number of our Agents will be diminished. I am persuaded that these facts need but to be generally known to elicit a cheerful response to the applications about to be made in the Circuits respectively—a response which shall enable us not only to sustain our existing operations, but also to occupy new ground in compliance with most affecting appeals which are reaching me from various parts of the Province, whose inhabitants are perishing for lack of spiritual nutriment.

Nor are the claims of the latter Fund less equitable or urgent. During a period of more than sixty years, assistance has been benevolently given by the Wesleys of the Parent country, to establish and sustain evangelical agencies in the Nova Scotia District. It were ungenerous to require the continued appropriation of the Mission Fund to the extent required for the maintenance of worn-out Ministers, and of the families of those whose lives are devoted to the work of the Ministry here. The resources of the Parent Society are all in demand for the extension of the work of God in heathen countries, and it were an act of injustice in us to continue to diminish those resources by throwing upon them a burden which we are much more able to bear. The Methodist Church has existed in this District much longer than it had existed in England when, in addition to the maintenance of its institutions at home, it extended its benevolent aid to this and other lands. Let us emulate the zeal and self-denial of the early Methodists, and place ourselves at the earliest possible period in our proper position as a self-sustaining branch of the Christian family. And among our first movements in that direction, nothing can be more appropriate, than to practically care for the widows and children of those who abbreviate the span of their earthly existence by ministering to our spiritual comfort and safety.

In the plan suggested for originating and sustaining a Fund for this purpose, the example of liberality set by the Ministers of the District cannot fail to influence beneficially all the right-hearted of our own people. The annual contribution of each Minister amounts to the sum required, by the average proposed, as class contributions, from fifty members; while the entrance fee payable by each is equal to the average class contribution of two hundred members. It cannot be that any person enjoying the benefits of their ministry can wrap himself in the mantle of covetousness, and refuse to assist an enterprise thus generously commenced. In reference to both these objects, the intelligence received from some of the Circuits, and the spirit manifested on my own, warrant the confident expectation that our efforts will, by the blessing of God, be crowned with success. But in order to this there must be general exertion. Each Superintendent must bring these matters fully before every Society under his charge, explaining their design, and commending them to their Christian consideration. The public

collections must be made for each of the Funds in every congregation, that all may have opportunity to manifest their interest in the establishment and extension of the work of God, by these, as other means discouragement must be met and overcome by persevering diligence, and by fervent prayer to Him, who hath the hearts of all men in his hand. Individual timidity or parsimony in any particular locality, must not be permitted to shut out from the opportunity to render assistance those who take correct views of connexional obligations. In classes embracing such persons as are really too poor to contribute, the average can be made up out of the abundance of others, who are more favourably situated. Indeed, in reference to these, as to all other branches of our financial economy, all that is requisite to their success is, a suitable and intelligent conviction of their practical utility, and a disposition to sustain them. The homely adage will then assuredly apply, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Nor can it be doubted, that correct apprehensions of duty, conscientiously carried out in supporting religious institutions, will be followed by more abundant supplies, both of temporal and spiritual blessings. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty." "He which soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart; so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. . . . Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

Commending the topics embraced in this communication, and the scripture quotations just presented, to the thoughtful consideration of your readers,

I am,
Rev. and Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
EPHRAIM EVANS.

Halifax, Feb. 12, 1851.

WESLEYAN SERVICES.

This week has been memorable for the important and interesting services, held by THE WESLEYANS of this City.

PREPARATORY SERMONS.

On Sabbath last, agreeably to previous announcement, *Preparatory Sermons*, in behalf of the HALIFAX BRANCH WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, were delivered in Argyle and Brunswick Street Churches. The officiating Ministers were the Rev. MATTHEW RICHEY, D. D., President of the Canada Conference, the Rev. H. POPE, Senior, of Newport, and the Rev. T. H. DAVIES, of Horton, Secretary of the Nova Scotia District. The discourses were appropriate, impressive, evangelical, and admirably adapted to advance the interests of the Missionary enterprise.

ORDINATION SERVICE.

On Monday evening, an ORDINATION SERVICE of peculiar solemnity, and distinguished by hallowed feeling, took place in the Brunswick Street Church. The Rev. GEORGE O. HUESTIS, of Halifax County, and the Rev. ROBERT E. CRANE, of Shelburne, who had respectively passed their term of probation creditably and usefully, and who had been received into Full Connection at the last English Conference, were solemnly set apart to the Sacred Office of the Christian Ministry, agreeably to our usages, by prayer, imposition of hands, and other significant exercises. The Ministers, who engaged in this important transaction, were the Rev. EPHRAIM EVANS, Chairman of the Nova Scotia District, the Rev. DR. RICHEY, and the Rev. Messrs. Bennett, Pope, Davies, McLeod, and McMurray.

After the opening of the Meeting by singing and prayer, the Chairman made some appropriate and highly interesting remarks, showing the various and successive steps, through which candidates were required to pass, in order to obtain a recognized status as fully received Ministers in the Wesleyan Church, as well as the strong and efficient guards and checks existing to prevent improper persons from entering into our Ministry. He dwelt particularly on the essential and required qualifications in every candidate: viz.,

Personal conversion, christian experience, a divine call, gifts, fruit, and soundness in the faith.—These observations were listened to by the large assemblage with profound attention, of which they were justly worthy, as they were calculated to prove, that, as a Church, the Wesleyans exercise a jealous and constant care over the character of those who aspire to take part in the Pastoral Office. The candidates were then required to give a statement of their conversion, christian experience, and call to the ministry, which they did, in a manner, which must have satisfied those present, that their Brethren had not erred in the estimate they had been led to form of their christian principles, the sincerity of their motives, and of the existence of other qualifications for the ministerial work.

The ORDINATION CHARGE was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Richey. We regret we have it not in our power to present to our readers, in due form, this admirable Address, complete, or even in outline. We may, however, in brief, characterize it, as excellent, in the best sense of the word—chaste, simple yet sublime—distinguished by breadth and range of thought—richly imbued with evangelical truth—conveying clear, definite, and impressive views, of the nature, duties, obligations, responsibilities, trials, supports, and encouragements, of the Sacred Office—intermingled with suitable advice and direction to the brethren on whom had been so recently imposed the solemnities of their Ordination Vows—and occasionally administering stern but merited rebuke to prevalent errors respecting the office of the Ministry and the vital doctrines of Christianity—errors which were calculated to destroy the spiritual character of the one and to supersede, and render inoperative the gracious tendencies of, the other.

The closing prayers were offered by the Rev. A. W. McLeod and the Rev. H. Pope.

The Chairman pronounced the Apostolic Benediction; and the congregation dispersed to their respective homes, with their hearts, we trust, enriched with the abundant grace of the Eternal Spirit, and thankful to God for the perpetuation of a spiritual, evangelical Ministry.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.

The ANNIVERSARY of the Halifax Branch Wesleyan Missionary Society was held in Brunswick Street Church on Tuesday evening last. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and the slippery state of the streets, a large and respectable congregation was in attendance, which augured well for the interest taken in the all-important subject of Christian Missions.

The service was commenced with singing, and prayer was offered by the Rev. W. BENNETT.

JUDGE MARSHALL, and old and long tried friend of the cause, ably presided over the business of the Meeting, and introduced the proceedings of the evening with a neat, comprehensive, and truly christian Address.

The Report, which was exceedingly interesting from the numerous instances of success, in almost all parts of the extensive field covered by the Parent Society's operations, it detailed, was read by the Rev. J. McMURRAY.

The following Resolutions were offered to the Meeting, by the gentlemen whose names are attached, and in the order in which they are now given:—

1. Moved by the Rev. HENRY POPE, seconded by the Rev. DR. CRAWLEY, supported by M. RICHEY, Junr., Esqr.,

That the progress made by the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and by other Protestant Institutions, in their scriptural efforts to evangelize the world, has been such as should excite devout gratitude to Almighty God for his past direction and blessing, and encourage to persevering and believing exertion for the universal triumph of the truth as it is in Jesus.

2. Moved by the Rev. T. H. DAVIES, seconded by the Rev. M. RICHEY, D. D.,

That this Meeting, deeply deploring the state of those portions of mankind, who, destitute of the blessings which a pure Christianity only can confer, are misled and degraded by varied forms of superstition and sin, humbly resolves, in dependence upon the Divine promises, to renew and increase its exertions to sustain the Parent Institution in the maintenance and extension of its benevolent operations.

3. Moved by the Rev. A. W. McLEOD, seconded by the Rev. R. E. CRANE; supported by S. L. SHANNON, Esqr.,

That this Meeting, impressed by a conviction of the impotence of all merely human appliances to rescue the world from the dominion of error and vice, calls upon the lovers of the Saviour, to unite in more frequent and fervent prayer, for the more copious effusions of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at large, and specially upon the labours of Christian Missionaries.

4. Moved by STEPHEN FULTON, Esqr., seconded by the Rev. J. McMURRAY,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Officers and Collectors of this Branch Society for their valuable services during the past year, and to the subscribers and donors who have contributed to its funds;—and that the following gentlemen be appointed to direct the Society's operations during the year now ensuing, viz:

Martin Gay Black, — Treasurer.
John H. Anderson, — Secretary.

COMMITTEE.

Jas. N. Shannon, Daniel Starr, Archibald Morton, Peter Nordbeck, S. L. Shannon, Hon. Hugh Bell, George H. Starr, Wm. Full, Edward Billing, and Edward Jost.

The above Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

We feel ourselves incompetent to describe the excellencies of the various speeches delivered on the occasion. The opening address of the Rev. Mr. Pope, gave a good tone to the Meeting, which was maintained to its termination. Dr. Crawley and Dr. Richey require no eulogy—they are known, and well known, as "workmen that need not be ashamed"—their speeches were argumentative and eloquent. Mr. Richey, Junr., acquitted himself creditably. We notice this young gentleman's effort with the more pleasure, as it is his first appearance on a Missionary platform before a Halifax audience. Mr. Davies's playful allusions served to excite a cheerful spirit in the minds of the interested hearers. Mr. Shannon improved a few moments in making some excellent remarks, and, glancing at preceding references, passed a just tribute of commendation on the character of a "Missionary Lawyer." Mr. Fulton justified the Committee of the Parent Society, and showed the impossibility of a mal-appropriation of the Funds without detection. Altogether we regard this Anniversary as one, which will be productive of beneficial influence in the metropolis, on the interests of our great and growing cause of Missions.

The Meeting was closed with singing, and by the pronouncement of the Benediction by the Rev. E. Evans, a few minutes after 10 o'clock.

The Collections are in advance of those of last year.

THE PROGRESS OF THE GOOD CAUSE.

Our columns, in this number, devoted to Correspondence, will be read with great interest by those who delight in the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth. It is with no ordinary pleasure that we insert the communication of our esteemed and tried friend, the Rev. R. KNIGHT, Chairman of the New Brunswick District. The scene of the gracious revival he records, is associated in our mind with many fond remembrances, and we would be devoid of all natural and christian sensibility, were we not to rejoice at the especial manifestations of divine power and love so graciously vouchsafed to the labours of our ministerial brethren in St. John. Hopewell is also witnessing a revival of religion; a Circuit on which we travelled years ago—where we formed many sincere christian attachments, and of which we can at the present say, that the lapse of time has caused no abatement of our concern for the spiritual welfare of its people. The gracious visitation on Maitland Circuit is at once a source of encouragement and joy, a pledge, we trust, of a more general and extensive work. May the abundant labours of all our Brethren be crowned with that success, which, we are persuaded, is an object of their most ardent aspirations, as it is of their unwearied toil. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

THOUGHTS ON METHODISM.

In this number appears the last, as yet received, of a series of Papers, under the heading of "Hore Wesleyanica, or Thoughts on Methodism." Enquiry has been made as to their authorship, accompanied with expressions of gratification occasioned by their perusal, and with an earnest wish that the numbers might be extended.—Without pledging ourselves to every sentiment advanced by the well informed and talented author, we have no hesitation in saying that they are worthy of more than a cursory reading; and we invite the writer more frequently to employ his pen in furnishing articles for our columns on the same, or kindred, or more general, topics.

SABBATH SAILS.

STEPHEN FULTON, Esqr., M. P. P., is deserving of the thanks of the religious public and of