

24. Mind your own business, and let your friends have time, without annoyance to attend to their.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1869.

Conference Resolutions.

We publish the resolutions of Conference, prepared for insertion in the printed Minutes, on some of the leading matters of Conference business:—

HOME MISSION AND CONTINGENT FUND.

The Conference gratefully records that there has been an encouraging increase to the Fund from some of the Circuits, as the result of the Home Mission meetings, especially in the Halifax, St. John, and P. E. Island Districts; but it deploras the inactivity of the whole increase for carrying out, to any great extent, the important objects contemplated in its formation, and aimed at in its management. It expresses its deep regret that, after the appropriation of the whole amount at its disposal, the brethren on the dependent Circuits and Mission Stations have to bear the loss of *miss thousand dollars* deficiency on the Circuits and Stations occupied by the year.

The Conference, believing that some action in relation to this Fund is necessary for removing misapprehension of its real nature, which the association of the term "Contingent" may have suggested, hiding, it is feared, from its friends, its vital importance to the interests of our Connexion, the prosperity of the cause of God, and the welfare of souls, has adopted the following Resolutions, viz:—

1. That the Fund known as the "Home Mission and Contingent Fund," and so designated in the printed Minutes, shall no longer exist as one Fund, but be divided into two separate and distinct Funds; one to be named the *Home Mission Fund*, and the other the *Contingent Fund*.

2. That the sources of income of the Contingent Fund shall be—(1.) A yearly subscription to be taken in the classes, in the several Churches, in the March Quarter. (2.) A public collection in all our churches, to be made in the month of August.

3. That the income of the Home Mission Fund shall consist of—(1.) The Grant from the Comities in England. (2.) The Interest on monies vested. (3.) A Public Collection to be made at the Home Mission Meetings, which shall be held in all the principal preaching places in the Circuits. (4.) Such special donations as may be made to it for the special objects contemplated by the Fund.

4. That suitable arrangements for holding the Home Mission Meetings shall be made at the September Financial District meetings.

5. The Conference trusts that by this arrangement the Home Mission department may become increasingly popular with our people, and its income greatly augmented by their enlightened and cheerful liberality; and their zealous cooperation in securing its increasing prosperity; and that the Connexion department will also continue to receive its share of their support.

6. That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Treasurers of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the Rev. H. Pickard, D.D., and the Hon. John H. Anderson; and also to the Rev. James Taylor, the Secy, for the very valuable services rendered by them severally to this department of our Connexional Finance during the year.

SUBSIDIARY FUND.

1. The Conference observes with satisfaction that this Fund is supported, in every part of our extended work. Nevertheless it appears that the amount of contributions this year is not equal to the sum raised last year; which may readily be accounted for by the depression of trade in some places, and the failure of the factory in others.

2. The Conference directs the earnest attention of the Superintendents of Circuits to the 5th, 6th, and 7th Rules of this Fund, (which are in the Society Ticket, during the September visitation, fully explain to the members the nature and reasonableness of the claims of this Fund upon the justice and liberality of our Church. He shall then enter in the Class Book the individual annual subscriptions which are to be paid before the ensuing District meeting.

3. An annual public collection shall be made in all our Churches and other preaching places, in the month of October.

4. VII. Applications shall be made to our friends, in each Circuit, for subscriptions and donations to this Fund. And that they endeavor so to explain and apply these Rules on their respective Circuits, that the yearly income to this indispensable institution of our Church may enable it fully to accomplish its benevolent design.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS.

1. The Conference presents its best thanks to the respected Treasurers of this Fund, the Rev. H. Pickard, D.D., and Mariner Wood, Esq, for their faithful and successful attention to its interests.

2. The thanks of the Conference are hereby presented to the Secretary of the Fund, the Rev. E. Botwell, for his very acceptable and satisfactory services.

BOOK ROOM AND "PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN."

1. That the Conference deem it of great importance for the welfare of our Connexion that its official organ, the *Provincial Wesleyan*, receive a more liberal patronage than hitherto from the Methodist of the Lower Provinces, believing that thereby the work of God would be greatly promoted; while the present much embarrassed state of the office would be greatly relieved by an enlarged and prepaid subscription list, and therefore most earnestly exhort the hearty cooperation of ministers, and most earnestly, as well as respectfully, solicit that of our people generally, in aiding to bring about so desirable a result.

2. The Conference is gratified to learn that some progress has been made in the collection of former years arrears in the *Provincial Wesleyan* accounts, but regrets that the amount of unpaid subscriptions is still so large, while the liabilities are so heavy and pressing, and therefore urges upon the agents the necessity of all possible effort to collect these without unnecessary delay.

3. The Conference approves of the return of the Book Steward in respect to the payment of postage on papers; and though suffering large loss thereby, which in its present financial condition it cannot well afford, it authorizes for another year the offer of pre-payment of postage to be made to all subscribers who pay strictly in advance, in hope that this generous arrangement may be serviceable in maintaining and extending our list of good subscribers.

4. That the Conference is still deeply impressed with the necessity of supporting, and rendering more efficient, our Book Room, as a means of diffusing our religious literature; and grateful that, in a year of considerable Commercial depression, our liabilities have not been increased, it encourages the hope that the Book

Room will yet relieve itself from all present embarrassment.

5. That the cordial thanks of the Conference be given to the Rev. J. McMoray for his condescension and ability in the difficult, onerous and important duties of Book Steward during the past year; and that he be assured of the unabated confidence of his brethren, in his constant efforts to promote the good of the Connexion, and of their appreciation of his services; and that he be appointed to the office of Book Steward and Editor for another year.

MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS.

1.—THE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT.

1. That the Conference, in reviewing the work of the Mount Allison Academies, regrets that past year has been one of unprecedented trial and difficulty, chiefly arising from the great and very general depression in business circles, which has prevented the enrollment in its classes of so large a number of pupils as may be reasonably anticipated in future years.

2. That the Conference gratefully acknowledges the favour of Divine Providence, whereby the indefatigable Principal has been enabled to complete the erection of the new Academy, whose opening services and subsequent management have evinced the abiding determination of its conductors to impart to all their pupils a careful and christian education, and cherishes the hope that, with increased accommodation, a much larger number of Students, from the recently improved common schools of our country, and from the families of our people, will be found within its halls, seeking a suitable training for the mans of Commerce, or the professional pursuits of the land.

3. The Conference, having carefully considered the condition and management of both branches of the Academy, and in view of the high appreciation of the educational efficiency of this truly excellent Institution, which it cordially and earnestly commends to the generous and intelligent patronage of the Christian public throughout the Lower Provinces; and it now tenders to the Rev. Dr. Pickard, the Principal, and to the entire staff of Professors and Teachers, its thanks for the very faithful discharge of their high and important duties during another year.

4. The Conference observes with pleasure, that many of the Subscribers towards the erection of the new Academy have, in the course of the year, honorably redeemed their obligations; and it now ventures to hope that those friends who have not yet fulfilled their pledges will do so at the earliest possible period, and thus prevent the diversion of the funds to this useful Institution from other and more legitimate channels, by the payment of interest on the debt which still remains.

II.—THE COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT.

1. That the Conference learns with pleasure that the year has been one of success in this department—that the Students have pursued their work with commendable assiduity, and that a promising class of young men has graduated; and it hopes that, in the new positions which they shall severally occupy, they may justify the reasonable anticipations founded on the high intellectual and moral training they have enjoyed, and thus induce in others a laudable effort to secure similar advantages.

2. That the Conference gladly learns that the influence of the Holy Spirit has been largely vouchsafed during the past year, and that several young persons in the different departments have experienced converting grace; and while it rejoices upon its ministers that they shall publicly and solemnly, in their pulpits, invoke the Divine blessing both upon the College and the other branches of the Institution, it recommends also to the families of our people generally, that, in approaching to God, they shall make earnest prayer that those sent forth from the halls of the Institution may, in their several spheres become new centres of light and influence.

3. The Conference approves of the plans proposed by the Board of Trustees for the partial endowment of the professional chairs, and the establishment of Scholarships; and it pledges its members to cordial cooperation with the Board in this important movement.

From our English Correspondent.

Rejection of the Irish Church Bill by the House of Lords—New Wesleyan Chapel—Society of Friends—First Methodist—Society of Friends—Luther Memorial in Germany—Protestantism in Bohemia—Bridges to connect England and Scotland—Robert Napier—Thanks of Parliament to the Abyssinian Army.

Last Monday evening the usual quiet of the House of Lords was changed into a scene of considerable bustle and excitement in consequence of the concluding debate on the Irish Church Bill. Early in the evening the attendance was so large that scarcely a seat was left unoccupied. Many members of the Lower House aimed the privilege, as Privy Counsellors, of seating themselves on the steps leading to the throne, and foremost among them was to be seen the stately form of the Lord Chief Justice of England. Several members of the Royal Family were present, including the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Edinburgh, the latter of whom returned home by his own ship the *Galton*, and arrived at Windsor on the previous Friday. There was a large attendance of ladies in the galleries, and the House presented altogether a most brilliant appearance. It is very seldom that a peer of the realm has the opportunity of speaking in the presence of such an audience, and the occasion was embraced by some of the most able members of the Upper House. The adjourned debate was opened by the Presbyterian Duke of Argyll, a man of distinguished rank, scholarship, and influence, who gave his hearty support to the measure. There followed on the same side, the Earls of Shaftesbury, Carnarvon, the venerable Earl Russell and others. The principal speakers on the opposite side were the Lord Chancellor and the Bishop of Oxford, who employed their eminent abilities in an earnest denunciation of the measure, on the ground that it was an act of flagrant injustice, and wanted spoliation, and would not do to the settlement of the Irish difficulty. The discussion was prolonged until three o'clock on Tuesday morning when the division took place, and the Bill was thrown out by a majority of 95. This was an expected result, and now the measure stands over for re-introduction into the reformed House of Commons. At the approaching election the Irish Church Bill will be the crucial test, and a very sharp contest is anticipated.

Considerable progress is being made in various parts of the Connexion in the important work of Chapel-building. On the 9th of last month the foundation stone of a chapel which is to cost £4000, was laid at Rugby by the Rev. Mr. Arthur. The Rev. Dr. Temple, the distinguished Head Master of the Rugby School, attended the evening meeting, and spoke in a calm and warm-hearted terms of the labours of Wesleyan Methodism.

Last week the memorial stones of a new chapel were laid in the Brixton Circuit, in connection with the Metropolitan Building Scheme. Our enterprising friends there have secured the

freedom of a valuable site sufficient for a chapel, school, and minister's house. The chapel and school will cost about £2000. The day's proceedings were of a most interesting description, and resulted in addition to the building fund of the sum of £200.

On the following day the foundation stone of a new chapel to seat 1000 persons was laid at Brighton, one of our most important watering places. A very gratifying feature in the service was the presentation of a small bag of money by 140 Sunday-schoolers, who as they walked past deposited on the stone what each had collected.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Metropolitan Building Fund, held two or three weeks ago, it appeared from the report, since the establishment of the Fund, about seven years ago, in addition to a great increase in cases of chapel enlargement, grants and loans had been made towards the erection of sixteen commodious chapels in important centres of population. The sum of £12,625 had been expended in grants, and 15,000 in loans. A very encouraging degree of success both as regards congregations and additional church members has followed these erections.

The country is suffering greatly in consequence of a severe drought. For nearly two months very little rain has fallen, and the great fears are entertained. The green crops are perishing, and fields that should be growing for food for cattle during the next winter are parched up. In the grass lands, the next winter the pastures usually seen at this season of the year everything looks withered. Wheat, which will bear a good deal of dry weather, is beginning to get damaged, and although our prospects in husbandry are very gloomy, and that peculiar song in the wind which generally the sound preceding abundance of rain, is heard, and these signs denote perhaps for four or five hours; then the clouds disperse, the wind dies away, and again a bright and burning sky spreads overhead. With few exceptions the accounts from all parts of the country are alike, and bode the same disastrous results.

Extensive fires in the course of which has not been ascertained, have broken out on the great Yorkshire moorlands. The extreme dryness of the grass and light vegetation with which they are covered, caused the flames to spread with resistless force and thousands of acres have become a blackened, dreary waste.

A similar accident is just reported from Chat Moss, a district lying between Manchester and Liverpool. The fire began in a plantation, and within an hour most of the trees were reduced to a pile of smoking ruins. The wind blowing at the time, and the fire spread rapidly. For miles around the clouds of smoke and sheets of fire were seen towering up towards the sky. The farm houses and cattle were placed in great peril, and great precautions were required to prevent their preservation. Many hundred head of game perished. The moss is divided here and there by ditches from five to eight feet wide, and twelve to fifteen feet deep, and these are generally filled with water. The moss is a very fertile land, but now there is not a drop to be seen in many of them, while others have only an inch or two of water. Several fields of potatoes have been injured, and many acres of corn are in a critical state.

A bill has been introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Shaftesbury with a view to introduce a check to the excesses of ritualism in the Established Church. The vestments worn by Romish priests are recalled to the attention of the members of the Church of England, and, according to the provisions of the act, all forbidden. Candles are to be lighted only for the purpose of giving light, and not to be placed on the altar for the purpose of symbolism; and the use of incense is prohibited. Considering the ritualistic tendencies of the Bishop of Oxford and Salisbury, and the unhappy disposition of several other prelates to adopt a policy of compromise, it is very questionable if the measure will become law.

The attention of Europe was drawn last week to one of the greatest Protestant celebrations which has occurred during the present century. It took place on the occasion of the inauguration of a magnificent monument at Worms, erected in memory of Luther and the German Reformation. It is a work of great size and rich variety of design, and neither pains nor expense have been spared to render it a monument worthy of the noble men whose memory it recalls. It is the nation that pays to them this fitting mark of veneration. On a granite base, forty feet square, there is a fine statue of Luther, and grouped around him in well-chosen attitudes are eleven other figures of men, memorable for the part they took in the great work which liberated so large a portion of Christendom from the yoke of the Papacy. In this noble array are four men who preceded Luther in doing battle with Popery, viz. Peter Waldo, the Frenchman, John Huss, the Bohemian, Savonarola, the Italian, and our own John Wickliffe. It is altogether a specimen of monumental skill and costliness unrivalled of its kind. One of the first German artists, Rietchel, was commissioned to prepare the model in the year 1836, so that the work has occupied 12 years. The unveiling and dedication of the monument took place last week, and an immense concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony, which was conducted with a pomp rarely witnessed. The King of Prussia, the Crown Prince, the King of Wirttemberg, and other notable personages were present. After attending service in the church the royal party in full uniform proceeded to the site of the memorial, where an address was delivered by Dr. Olfermann on the historical events and persons commemorated. A second speech of the monument was unveiled, amidst the sound of trumpets and the discharge of artillery. The entire assembly, full of enthusiasm joined in a grand chant; after which the Prussian national hymn was sung. Our gracious Queen addressed a telegram to the King of Prussia, in which in a few earnest, warm-hearted words, Her Majesty expressed her sympathy with the celebration of the day, and spoke of her desire to promote the spirit of union between the "Protestant people of England and the Protestant people of Germany."

Appropriately with this I may mention a very interesting meeting held last week in Enderby Hall, to listen to addresses by two Bohemian pastors on the subject of evangelical religion in that ancient country. Greatly to the chagrin of the Pops and the Romish hierarchy, recent concessions made by the Emperor of Austria have opened a way for the spread of the Protestant faith in Bohemia, and as next year will be the fifth centenary of the Bohemian martyr, John Huss, it has been resolved to raise a fund to establish in his own city of Prague a college for the training of Gospel ministers. The Austrian liberty so unexpectedly granted by the Prussian government is being taken advantage of. Bible depots are opened throughout the various Austrian States, and in Prague, where the Bible was once burnt, there is now an average sale of 15,000 copies. The people are now educating their children in their own faith, and favourable opportunities are being presented for the preaching and teaching of the pure gospel of Christ.

A marvelous triumph of engineering skill in a short time was completed on the coast of Cumberland. The other day the last two girders of a great bridge connecting England and Scotland across the Solway Firth, were laid. The bridge itself is considerably more than a mile long, and with its embankments on each coast, forms a road across the sea nearly two miles in length. Some idea of the gigantic nature of the undertaking may be gathered from the fact that 1,800 tons of wrought iron and 2,900 tons of cast iron have been used in the construction. An enormous expense has been incurred, but the advantages in reducing the expense of carriage between certain important districts of England and Scotland, will, it is thought, make the undertaking remunerative to the shareholders.

Yesterday morning Sir Robert Napier, the Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian forces, arrived in London; and in the evening of the same day a vote of thanks was moved to the General and the Abyssinian Army in both Houses of Parliament. There was a full attendance of peers in the upper House, and an additional attraction was lent to the proceedings by the presence in the west galleries of a number of peers. A rumour prevailed that Sir Robert Napier would be in attendance and a conspicuous place was reserved for him in front of the throne. However he was unable to be present in consequence of a summons from the Queen calling him to Windsor, where Her Majesty is at present residing. High and richly deserved eulogiums were passed upon the Commander, and the officers and men of the army and navy, for the way in which they had conducted and carried through so laborious and difficult an enterprise. The expedition has not only been successful in releasing the captives, but it has tended to give, particularly to Eastern Asia, a high sense of British power, justice, and humanity.

Twillingate Fire.

We understand that the Rev. J. Goodison is now in Montreal obtaining subscriptions to erect a new Church and Parsonage at Twillingate, Newfoundland, in place of those destroyed by fire in February last. We are informed he intends visiting the chief places in these provinces to solicit help, and we trust wherever his appeal to the public will receive a hearty response.

At Twillingate there are above one thousand Wesleyans. Two of 40, 30 members of Zion's Church, one thousand of the regular attendants upon the Wesleyan Ministry without a Sanctuary. Who can refuse his mite in such a case? Where is the heart that does not sympathize with this pastor and his beloved people? Let the Methodists of the Provinces come to their help: meet Mr. Goodison with your free will offerings for this stricken people. Let us show our care for our brethren on the bleak coast of Newfoundland that we care for them. Send to the Rev. J. Goodison in gold or in goods may be sent to the Conference Office.

Ordination Charge.

In the absence of a full account of the Conference Ordination Service, we give the following extract from the Charge by the President, to the newly-ordained brethren, only regretting that we cannot furnish the whole address as delivered on that occasion:—

"Take heed to your preaching. This is, after all the main thing. If you are no preacher, you are nothing. Let the pulpit be your throne. Who says that the pulpit has become effete? It has not lost its power? God himself has put the pulpit on the throne. The preacher is not the lecturer, nor the prosopher, nor the critic, but the lifter up of the Cross and the Saviour—This is your work. O, if you fall here, you miss your way. If there be anything in our ministry that does not lead to Christ, it is a strange delusion; God himself will destroy it; it is a blemish which disfigures the whole; it is but as the mortar of the masonry, which may be beguile, but cannot dissipate the darkness. It suggests the idea of darkness in the Bible, of the light of the day which gladdened in mockery of noon. Then preach Christ. You say me how to preach Christ? In your own style, if you have the imagination of the poet, use it; if you have the eloquence of a Cicero, use it; if you have a quiet style of your own, then be yourself. If you have the polish in the grain, bring it out; don't let the pine grain smear at the mahogany grain. Don't let us have the class of revival that is non-revival. Be loud as Matthew, if you can jelling as Paul, poetic as Isaiah, tender and melting as John the beloved, stern and fiery as Ezekiel, only let us feel the power! You need power—power over the conscience. If you speak to the imagination, the poet will be worsted; but speak to the conscience, and no man can rival you. You are a *Car of many lands*. Above all be in earnest. Preach with; sin against the fifth rib; let there be no affection; not the bursting of a volcano, but the gentle dawning of the light, that while it would not wake the slumbering babe, would fill the world with glory.

Aim at success. God's word promises it: "As I live, saith the Lord, my word shall not return unto me void." Trust God. The husbandman patiently waiteth, believeth, for the precious fruit of the earth; so may you. Expect success. You have the power, and you have the promise. May God save us from inquiring excuses for want of success, when our barrenness should drive us to our knees! Let us dread, above all things, the curse of an unfruitful ministry. Preach the Gospel. Don't fear because of the pride of rank or wealth; don't be afraid of them, let you have the guilt of souls on your hands. "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, then God will be in earnest. O that you labors for God will be in earnest. O that you may invoke the baptism of the Holy Ghost upon these brethren! and let the people say Amen."

The Conference of 1868.

We love to think of its sessions. They were hallowed by more than ordinary influences from above. Our beloved President was all we could desire in every respect, and his business tact, his power of oratory, both in preaching the word, and lecturing on kindred subjects, are evidently sanctified "and meet for the Master's use."

One aim is apparent in all his utterances—the glory of God, and the salvation and benefit of those who hear him. And is not this praiseworthy? His gravity, tact, and business tact, his power of oratory, both in preaching the word, and lecturing on kindred subjects, are evidently sanctified "and meet for the Master's use."

of the Presiding officer in successfully checking all unnecessary discussion; and yet the business was not unduly hastened. Some of our chief debaters were never less talkative, nor has the Conference lost much thereby.

Another peculiar feature of this Conference, was found in connection with the religious services on the week evenings. There were frequent prayer and conversation meetings which proved very interesting and refreshing. Perhaps a larger amount of preaching would have been an improvement. And yet it is patent to all who are capable of judging, that our sermons and missionary speeches at Conference are not equal to those delivered on other occasions. It may not be difficult to account for those shortcomings, but no sufficient reasons can be given for their justification.

This year's Conference will also be long remembered for its Legislation, which has effected very important changes in its constitution. Heretofore the Stationing Committee, the most important Committee in Conference—consisted of the President and the Chairman of Districts; henceforth an additional Preacher chosen by ballot at the May District Meeting, will be added to that Committee, thus increasing the number from ten to nineteen. Whether this be a wise change or not, remains to be proved. A Chairman for each District is now elected by the Conference. The votes being by ballot. This arrangement will give more satisfaction than the former method.

Last but not least—the financial showing from the various districts exhibited the painful fact. That the unpaid *dependents* of Brethren on what are called the *dependent* Circuits amount to *nine thousand dollars*, one-third larger than ever before, in one year.

This serious financial difficulty, arises in part from the great depression of trade and consequent scarcity of money.

But the chief reason is the rapid increase during recent years to our ministerial staff of laborers; so that while our people are not lessening their contributions to our funds, the expenditure is increasing year by year. Hence the alarming deficiencies.

G. O. H.

Shelburne Circuit.

We have received for publication a copy of an Address prepared by the official members of the Shelburne Circuit to their late pastor, the Rev. T. Watson Smith, on the eve of his leaving that sphere of labour, together with Mr. Smith's reply. We regret that the space at our command in our present issue will not admit of giving that Address. It is highly gratifying and encouraging to the Christian labourer when his efforts to promote the spiritual edification of his charge, and to improve the temporalities of the church, are appreciated and rendered successful. Mr. Smith's period of incumbency in Shelburne has been marked by peace and prosperity, and the recollections of his labours will long be cherished. We give Mr. Smith's Reply:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SHELBURNE QUARTERLY MEETING.

DEAR BRETHREN,—I have listened with no slight degree of emotion to the address presented to me on behalf of the Church and congregation of Shelburne. A three years' residence among you has been marked by not a few of those calm and anxious peculiar to life in the ministry, which beside ourselves none but God can know; and the depressing influence of these has been largely counteracted by the harmony with which we have laboured together in the more secular work of the Circuit and the happiness we have enjoyed in the services public and private of the Lord's house.

He will always best succeed in gaining the good will of his fellow men—no small point to be gained in the work of the Gospel—who seeks first of all to please God and his own conscience. I have sought to do while among you. It is satisfactory to know that in trying to do the one I have succeeded in gaining the other, and yet the very sentiment respecting my labours uttered by you in the address just presented, because me to take a retrospective glance at my ministering among you and to see very much of unfruitfulness leading me to ask pardon from the Master for the past and strength for the future.

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I thank you for the kind reference made to one who shares with me the joys and cares of ministerial labour and who bears patiently for the sake of the cause those many inconveniences to which the itinerant system subjects the minister, but to a much greater extent the minister's wife.

For my successor, who I know will strive faithfully to do his duty as in the sight of God, I bid the same aid and encouragement as freely afforded to me.

We labour benevolently in different parts of the harvest field. Remember that no labour done in humble dependence on Christ shall be lost.

Be ye therefore steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Commending you to God and the word of His grace, I am

Yours in the Gospel,
T. WATSON SMITH.
Shelburne, July 29th, 1868.

Notes on the Hymns in the Methodist Hymn-Book.

From the Methodist Recorder.

Hymn 48, which the title of "On the night of a corpse," is one of C. Wesley's "Funeral Hymns." There have been differences of opinion as to the appropriateness of some of the language used in the Hymn. The Rev. Richard Watson says that Charles Wesley's Funeral Hymns have little of the softness of sorrow in them but they are written in the fulness of faith which exclaims, even over the grave, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." There is an interesting and appropriate illustration to this hymn in Mr. Arthur's *Life of Mr. Rudgett*, pages 88-90, which is worth the reader's attention. Byron in his "Giacca" records similar sentiments in describing death, and Mrs. Hemans, who is known as the poetess of the affections, has written this passage:—

And is this that? Dread this!
If such thy visiting
How beautiful thou art!

Hymn 49, "Rejoice for a brother deceased," forms the second of C. Wesley's "Funeral Hymns" (1744). Mrs. Hall the author's sister, commended this, while she was unfavorable to the previous hymn. This was a great favourite with the author himself in the decline of life. Mr. Henry Moore relates this anecdote of him when nearly eighty years of age: "He rode every day (clothed as for winter even in summer) a little horse, grey with age. When he mounted, if a subject struck his mind, he would proceed to expand and put in order. He would write a hymn thus given him on a card, with his pencil, in short-hand. Not unfrequently he has come to the house in the City-road, and having left his pony in the garden in front (the pony was not then enclosed in wall and iron rails

as it now is), he would enter crying out, 'Pen and ink.' These being supplied, he would write the hymn he had composed in his mind, and deposit it in his pocket-book. That same pocket-book, with two of C. Wesley's manuscript hymns in his folds, is now in possession of the writer of these notes. Mr. Moore proceeds, "When this was done, he would look round on those present and salute them with much kindness, and thus put all in mind of eternity. He was fond of repeating the third stanza of this hymn on such occasions," which commences—

There all the ship's company meet,
Who sailed with the Saviour beneath.

Hymn 50, "Blessing, honor, thanks, and praise," is entitled "A Funeral Hymn," and is found in C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1742). This is an unaltered reprint of Hymn 51, "Hark! a voice divides the sky," is found in C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1742), and is an unaltered reprint of the original.

Hymn 52, "Again we lift our voice," appears in C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1740), vol. II, and has for its title, "On the death of Samuel Hitchins," who was a Corinthian, one of the first race of Methodist preachers, who died at an early age. An account of his life, written by his father, was published by John Wesley in 1746.

Hymn 53, "Give glory to Jesus our Head," appears in the second volume of C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1740), and is entitled "On the death of a widow." This hymn is eight lines longer in the original, and two words are altered. The poet has expressed an idea in the second verse which is worthy of remark; it is—

Where glorified spirits by night,
Converse in their holy abode.

That intercourse should be carried on by eight in the heavenly state, is certainly novel; and yet the same thought is stated in a passage by Butler in his "Hudibras," which runs thus:—

Oh, who but lovers can converse
Like angels by the expiring stove?
Address and compliment by vision.

Hymn 54, "Hearken to the solemn voice," is found in C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1742), and is entitled "A Midnight Hymn."

Hymn 55, "Thou Judge of quick and dead," is found in C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1740), vol. II, where it is entitled, "For the Watch-night."

Hymn 56, "He comes," &c., No. 37 of Wesley's "Hymns of Intercession for all Men," is entitled "For the Kingdom come."

Hymn 57, "The great Archangel's trump shall sound," is the half of one of C. Wesley's "Hymns and Sacred Poems" (1749). The accident which originated this fine composition is related in C. Wesley's Journal. On his third visit to Leeds he met the society in an old room, which was densely packed, and crowded, could not gain admission. He removed nearer the door, that those without might hear, and drew the people towards him. Instantly the rafters broke off short, close to the main beam, the floor sank, and more than one hundred people fell, amid dust and ruins, into the room below. One sister had her arm broken, and set immediately; rejoicing with joy unspeakable. Another, strong in faith, was so crushed, that she expected instant death, but she was without fear, and only said, in calm faith, "Jesus, receive my spirit." A boy of eighteen, who had come to make a disturbance, who struck several women on entering was taken up roaring, and his leg broken. After such a deluge of affliction, which was broken in two places, the preacher did not fall, but sat down sobbing and lighted on his feet. His hand was bruised, and part of his skin rubbed off his head. He lost his senses, but recovered them in a moment, and was filled with power from above. He writes, "I lifted up my head and saw the people under me, heaps upon heaps. I cried out, 'Fear not: the Lord is with us; our lives are all safe; and then gave out, 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.' Several were caught away, but none killed. After such a deluge of affliction, which was broken in two places, the preacher did not fall, but sat down sobbing and lighted on his feet. His hand was bruised, and part of his skin rubbed off his head. He lost his senses, but recovered them in a moment, and was filled with power from above. He writes, "I lifted up my head and saw the people under me, heaps upon heaps. 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