

106 Obituary

ALAN ROGERS - GRATER COVE. The grandson of Joseph Dodge, whose christian experience and triumphant death, was recorded in the columns of the P. W., devoted to Obituary Notices, a few weeks ago...

It was impossible for any one to enter his chamber - listen to his simple, devout words, and look upon his radiant countenance, without feeling "Lo, God is here." I remember calling to see him on one occasion...

Provincial Wesleyan

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1865.

Conference Correspondence

THE CONFERENCE OF EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA commenced its sessions, pursuant to appointment, on Wednesday 28th of June, at 9 A. M. The retiring Co-Delegates, the Rev. T. H. Davies in the chair. The Session was opened with appropriate devotional exercises - the hymn beginning, "Unchangeable, Almighty Lord," was sung, and the fourth chapter of the second epistle to the Corinthians was read by the President elect, after which the Revs. W. Temple, and E. Bortwell engaged in prayer.

The Co-Delegates then said - Before giving up this Chair, which I do with more pleasure than I had in taking it, not because I am unwilling to serve my brethren, but because, on account of my peculiar temperament, I shrink from such a position. I feel called upon by God to give the grace which He has given me, to express my gratitude for what my eyes behold. I look back to the time when, forty two years ago, I began to meet in our District Meetings, and I feel delighted at what God hath wrought. I see before me some with whom I have never conversed, and truly say I love them, as I have never conversed with these younger men as a deeply interesting class, because on them devolves the carrying on of the work which we have only inadequately performed. I will say of this connection, "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes I will now say, Peace be within thee."

I remember when, one year ago, that good, genial, and talented man of God, our late President, occupied the Chair, my enjoyment and delight, my association with him resulted in bringing the most hallowed influence on myself. We shall never forget his wise, and kind administration of affairs in our Conference. I beg to call the attention of the Conference to that part of the reply of the British Conference, to our address of last year, informing us of the confirmation of our nomination to the Presidential Chair. After reading the extract referring to the appointment of the Rev. John McMurtry as President of the Conference for the current year, the Co-Delegates continued, "I welcome you Bro. McMurtry to the Chair of the Conference. May God assist you in your onerous, and important labours."

The President on taking the Chair, spoke in substance as follows: - BELIEVED BROTHERS - I highly appreciate the kind attentions of the venerable brethren who have just vacated this Chair. I am placed in this position of responsibility in compliance with your kind nomination last year; your choice having been confirmed by the British Conference. I accept the position, with the grateful recognition of the good will of my brethren, and of their confidence in me as expressed by their suffrages. I cannot but be assured in the duties assigned to me, without the grace and blessing of Almighty God, and

under which I take the Chair of the Conference, occupied last year with so much ability and grace by the now departed Thos. W. We all unite in the expression just given, that we are the better for his visit, and for our delightful and hallowed association with him.

Brothers, in taking this Chair, I wish to say that I feel that our work is most important; consequences that we cannot estimate most result from the meeting of this Conference - consequences not only in this, but extending into eternity, and affecting interests of highest importance. O let us pray that we may receive the fulfillment of the promise: "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world; so shall we be saved from every low motive, and be fully fitted to discharge our important duties. I trust this will be a happy Conference; I trust that it will be an orderly Conference; I trust that all our measures shall be adopted in wisdom, and shall result in promoting the glory of God. There was one advice which Mr. Wesley gave in one of the early Conferences, which we would do well to keep in view in our present Session, viz, to act and speak in the immediate presence of God. If we do not take care to keep our own hearts, we shall personally suffer spiritual loss, instead of being benefited by our association. Let us guard against anything like religious dissipation. I need not assure you how much I love Methodism; how much I love her doctrines and discipline; how much I love her Ministers, for whom, from my youth, I have entertained a more than ordinary esteem. I am confident that if we are faithful to a church God will make us instruments of the accomplishment of great good throughout these Provinces. "God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us." I have great pleasure in calling the attention of the Conference to the appointment of the Rev. E. Bortwell, Co-Delegate of this Conference. I feel gratified that I am to be supported in the onerous position in which I am placed, by so excellent, and able a Minister of our body.

The Rev. Mr. Bortwell on taking his place on the platform, spoke substantially as follows: - Mr. President: I don't know that I have very much to say on this occasion, and if I had I don't know to what it is the occasion to say much; but would not be wanting in respect to you, and to the members of this Conference. And first I wish to express my gratitude to God that I am counted worthy to occupy this position. It was the first desire of my heart when God called me to my work, to give my whole heart to Him, and I can testify that from the moment when I decided to follow the leadings of Divine Providence in this work, my way has been sweetly opened, and I feel now, as fully as I ever felt, that it is my duty to labour in the work of proclaiming the Gospel of our salvation.

I beg to say, that I feel very grateful to my brethren by whose suffrages I occupy this position; I trust that I shall be able to show that their love for me, and confidence in me has not been misplaced. I remember, sir, that Mr. Wesley was accustomed to call the Methodist who was under God, the instrument of raising up to his work, to give my whole heart to Him, and I feel that it is such still. Had it not been so, would have been to day merely a matter of history; it would not have gone from hand to hand, from people to people, elevating and blessing as it has done. If these convictions be correct, very great responsibilities rest upon us. I trust we shall never lose sight of the words of the members of this Conference to be true souls from death. The great instrument for this work is the preaching of the Gospel; and let me remind you, and in doing so remind the members of this Conference, that Mr. Wesley in the preface to his sermons, ordered himself a "man of one book." The work of God is to be carried forward by the enunciation of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

I have only one remark more, I quite concur in your remark, as to the necessity of saving our time. I believe that the work of the preparatory Committee has been more fully and correctly done this year than in any former session. I shall not this year have much labour to perform; the only occasion when the Co-Delegates come to the front, is when the President falls in the rear. We remember the painful fact of the death of our President last year, I am glad to see you sit here in health and strength. I have not such such ease as this and last year will ever again see in the Conference of Eastern British America. And I trust at the close of our business every brother will be able to go to his sphere of labour with renewed strength, and feeling the best of all, "God is with us."

The Conference then proceeded to the election of the various Secretaries. The vote for the Secretary of the Conference, the Rev. A. Temple. The vote for Journal Secretary, resulted in the choice of the Rev. D. D. Carr. The Revs. T. W. Smith, and S. F. Hestis were appointed Assistant Secretaries, and the Rev. G. Butler Assistant Financial Secretary.

The names of the Ministers appointed by the several Districts to attend the Conference were read. The Conference prayer-meeting, which commenced at 11 A. M., was attended by a considerable number of the members of our congregations in Town and Milton. The exercises were opened by the singing of part of the hymn beginning, "Father, if justly still we claim, after which the Revs. Messrs. Smith and Sowball led in prayer. After the reading by the Secretary of a part of the 15th chapter of the Gospel of St. John, the President reminded of the assembled worshippers, that we as ministers agreed with them in recognizing the necessity of the Divine grace and blessing, to be obtained in answer to prayer, and besought not only on this occasion, but also at their family altars, and in their private devotions. The singing of other hymns followed, and the Revs. Messrs. Daniel, Henniger, Lockhart, and Crandall in prayer. A hallowed and delightful influence from on high rested on the assembly, and renewed purposes to live to God, were formed in the hearts of both ministers and people.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The Conference opened with the usual devotional exercises. The reply of the British Conference to the Address of last year was read. The names of the brethren recommended for ordination, from the various districts, were reported by the several chairmen. It was decided that the examination before the Conference should be held on Monday next. The Candidates for ordination, take place on Saturday morning next. The Conference appointed the Rev. J. H. Harvey, A. M., to prepare the Address to the British Conference; the Revs. C. Stewart, and Geo. Bortwell, to prepare the letter to the Missionary Committee; the Revs. H. Pope, Jr., and F. W. Moore to prepare the Pastoral Address; the Revs. S. W. Spangue, and G. Miller to be the Conference's scribes; and the Revs. J. England, and A. W. Nicholson, to receive and disburse Conference collections. The Revs. Messrs. Henniger, Bortwell, Davies, De-

appointed a Committee to examine the candidates for ordination. The names of the several preachers recommended by the several Districts to be continued on trial, were reported by the Chairmen, and the several recommendations adopted.

In the evening the Conference Missionary Meeting was held in Providence Church, the President of the Conference in the Chair. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. J. S. Adley. The Report was read by the Secretary, the Rev. J. Lathern. The crowded audience listened with deep interest to the address of the several speakers, the President, the Revs. Messrs. Daniel, Fenton, Brewster, Putnam, McKee, and Pasch, who ably acquitted themselves on the great Missionary theme. The meeting continued till a late hour with unabated interest, the only regret being that the time allotted for the purpose could not have been extended, and a larger number of Ministers heard, on this deeply interesting occasion. J. H.

For the Provincial Wesleyan. Revival Intelligence, &c.

It is very refreshing to the heart, after a year of hard toiling, on a single-handed struggle, to meet the brethren at our District Meeting, - exchange brotherly salutations, and tell of battles fought with the marshalled legions of hell, and captives delivered from chains and darkness. We are mutually strengthened and encouraged, and stimulated to renewed exertions, and more greater daring, by the recital of what has been done, and suffered in our Master's cause. Our Meeting, - which is now numbered with past events, - was, as you have learned from the pen of a beloved brother chosen by the District, for that selfless purpose, one of great usefulness. The summer season was one of great usefulness, and throughout pervaded and crowned with the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit. We often felt, while standing and reviewing the various departments of our work in this land, the truth of the words "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." I will not trespass further into this region, but would if permitted, record on them or two of Revival Intelligence, &c., immediately connected with my own Circuit.

As far as things temporal are concerned, the year commenced and closed very gloomily. Every thing harassing, and oppressive, and depressing, seemed to be thrown in the people's way. The summer season was one of great usefulness, and throughout pervaded and crowned with the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit. We often felt, while standing and reviewing the various departments of our work in this land, the truth of the words "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." I will not trespass further into this region, but would if permitted, record on them or two of Revival Intelligence, &c., immediately connected with my own Circuit.

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first public visible manifestation of a gracious revival, which resulted in the conversion of more than one hundred souls. "O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness!" If desirable I can furnish you with still further intelligence. J. W.

Self-Interest.

The Lord Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and the Creator of our persons, know man, and what is in man, body and soul and spirit. The religion he promulgated, the motives for the practice of it, and the commandment for the diffusion of it, were all in conformity to the nature he had given us, and to the feelings and affections with which he had inspired us. Self-love and gratitude is the law of our nature and the commandment of our God.

It is through the operation of this law that a man loves his Creator. "We love him, because he first loved us." It is by this innate principle of self-love that man in the Scripture of truth is invited to do good and to communicate. "They that love the Creator of our persons, know man, and what is in man, body and soul and spirit. The religion he promulgated, the motives for the practice of it, and the commandment for the diffusion of it, were all in conformity to the nature he had given us, and to the feelings and affections with which he had inspired us. Self-love and gratitude is the law of our nature and the commandment of our God."

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