

# THE WESLEYAN,

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1875.

## THE WESLEYAN.

It is launched in its New Dress with "GOOD-WILL TOWARD MEN." It abandons the word "Provincial" as being no longer applicable, if, indeed, it ever added any value to the original designation—which is that at present assumed by us. The type is altogether new. A better quality of paper and a considerably larger sheet are used than formerly. The Printing, performed by contract for several years, is once more done under the direct management and on the same premises with the Conference Office. We have aimed at making the Paper a handsome one. It remains for us, and our good Brethren, to make it a useful, welcome herald of good tidings to its numerous readers.

Entering thus on a new era of the Paper's history, we take the opportunity of writing a few words respecting our past and future.

One chief aim we have kept before us in Journalistic work. Conscious that the WESLEYAN was capable of proving an important agency in disseminating information and helping to rebuke abuses, we have endeavored to keep its columns full of sound, wholesome teachings and intelligence. In keeping to this purpose, we have occasionally provoked an expression of dissent—in two or three instances have met with treatment meant doubtless to be painful to our contemporaries; but remembering that the Paper belongs to and represents the Church, we have avoided making it the vehicle of our personal opinions, excepting as they harmonized with the mission of an organ with whose management we have been entrusted. Had the Paper been private property we might have been tempted to turn it, as others have done theirs, to the ignoble purpose of castigating an opponent. We have preferred to sit in silence, watching the angry waves beating out their energy upon an unyielding strand.

Far, very far, has the WESLEYAN fallen below our ideal, during the past two years. But as we have been gradually emancipated from excessive labor in other directions, our strength has been brought more fully to the management of the Paper. The day we trust is not far distant when it may command at least the entire services of an Editor. For the substantial aid afforded us by correspondents and other contributing friends, we cannot be sufficiently grateful.

As to the future. Our main hope for the Paper's usefulness and influence rests upon the fact that it will be a medium of intelligence between our Ministers and people. We have correspondents in the United States, England, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland. Our Brethren in Circuit work will gladden us by letters occasionally. The WESLEYAN has been gaining we think as a strong link between Gods people in this way. Nothing animates a soldier in conflict like a cheer from distant comrades on the same battle field.

And now, once more, we commit our enterprise to God's good favor and the kind consideration of our readers.

### HAVE A DEFINITE AIM, YOUNG MAN.

We ought certainly to have included "young women" as well in the caption of this article. But we are ashamed to confess that the prevalent habit of regarding the soul of society as consisting in its youth of the sterner sex, to the exclusion of the more retiring but equally capable of the other, mastered us for the moment. Young women are a proverb of listlessness and aimlessness; yet it is a question whether their record of the last decade or two would not suffice to put the more pretentious admirers to the blush. Indifference to the world's claim, and a disposition to float with the tide of circumstances may be characteristic of females to a considerable extent; but their training and their associations both considered, it is marvelous that so many of them insist to-day upon obtaining a useful place in life, notwithstanding the frowns and sneers of this degenerate age.

Our object is to reach young men particularly, by our present remarks. Years ago we noticed—what seldom fails to impress a stranger on coming to this country—that, for versatility of handicraft the equals of Provincialist young men were not to be found in the world. Not that they were thorough in anything—Jack of all trades," according to the proverb, never as; but they were amazingly ingenious and apt in handling the tools used in common country life. It has been painful to notice that passing years have been making no improvement in this respect. The right hand we fear has been losing its cunning. Our lads have grown weary of the plough, the axe and the scythe. They have not always abandoned the lower for a higher social grade, however. Few of them, comparatively, have done like Daniel Webster, when told to hang the scythe to suit himself, and he suspended it from the limb of a tree while he betook himself to a pursuit of knowledge. Our young men have not always—though the Press and Platform have often warned them against this in a strain which might imply there was real danger—gone into the professions. They have, in the majority of instances turned their genius to the best account of which it was capable, in the United States, labor and now at another. The result is, they have been servants where they should have been masters—content with wages where they might have amassed fortunes. It may be admitted that there are exceptions—that some have returned to us with experience and wealth for their country's benefit. That the proportion of these is so very small, is just what troubles us.

Now that a system of Free Education exists everywhere, no young man need be deprived of sufficient advantages to enable him to meet the responsibilities of life. An education to begin with. Its extent must depend upon circumstances. But education every youth should possess. Then should follow a faithful application to some trade or system of business. Indeed, the purpose to master a trade or the principles of a profession should begin with early life. It should be an important part of parental advice and instruction to inculcate a proper ambition to excel. The child's inclination usually takes some bent. This may not always foreshadow his actual career; but a taste for particular kinds of employment should be gratified. It will develop something better.

Every heart will be cheered by tidings that our Provincial Academies and Colleges are full of students. So far well. But what are they all aiming at? Education is but preparatory work. Of itself it accomplishes but little in a man's life. It is a potent auxiliary—essential as a qualification for something else; but, stern, practical life begins from the College door leading outward into the world. Some distinct life-employment should be selected, the principles of it mastered thoroughly at the outset; the youth thus becoming thoroughly furnished upon good works.

There is another and less hopeful multitude among us. Splendid farms are being forsaken throughout the country by our young men, heedless of the great advantages they are thus relinquishing. Where are these youths? In honest positions it may be; but the majority of them are either attempting to do business upon a capital and under conditions which mean ultimate penury or failure; or they are seeking for employment without any purpose of becoming thoroughly masters of any form of industry. This country has already at least double the number of merchants that it really needs; while aimless, undisciplined workmen, there are always abundance from the overflow of other countries. We cannot say anything too favorable as to openings in the professions. Every avenue leading to success at the Bar, in the Medical profession, and the department of Education, is crowded. The only vacancies we can see are those of agricultural and mechanical life. Yet these are the mainstay of the country. Our young men may build up their own interests and those of their Dominion at the same time. We exhort them to aim directly at a mastery which can only be obtained by definite aim and discipline.

JUDGE MARSHALL'S TREATISE ON DIVINE GOODNESS AND JUSTICE has been published in pamphlet form. Our readers who have followed the earlier portions of this Essay, as they appeared in these columns some time ago, will have a desire to see its completion. Judge Marshall possesses an active mind, one that is set for the defence of the truth.

### MR. PLIMSOLL'S REFORM.

A reformation has set in, we perceive, after the first agitation following Mr. Plimsoll's efforts before the British public and Parliament. This was to be expected. Revolutions, begotten of popular grievances, are apt to end in an extravagance which requires in turn the strong arm of restraint. Mr. Plimsoll has done good service by bringing evil doing to light, and evil-doers to justice. He has brought some blessings of security to seamen. But, Maritime though it was, England did not fully understand the best modes of providing a remedy for the evils of its sea-faring people. Like all populations excessively eager to abolish abuses by law, our British friends approved for the moment of legislation which is well calculated to cripple an arm so long nursed with care, till it gave their kingdom the supremacy. Accordingly, the means originated to protect the sailor are very likely to ruin his owners. We shall cite but two or three instances. The grain-carrying trade between nations—especially between America and Europe—is always one of principal importance. To guard against misfortunes caused by freights of this commodity in bulk, it has been required by law that grain shall be shipped across the ocean only in bags. Freights, already ruinously low, are cut down by the expense of this provision; while in the estimation of the best practical judges, the remedy of making contractors responsible for the sufficiency of bulk-heads, so called, would have gained the desired end at a title of the cost. There are fleets idle in the docks of England and the United States to-day as the result of this one regulation.

A more serious result, however, is contemplated in another contingency which has grown out of this Reformer's impassioned appeals to the nation. Ships having filled their periods of classification were often bought up by speculators and kept at sea till they rotted or were wrecked. In any case a harvest was gained either by continuous earnings or at the expense of Insurance Societies. Many precious lives were lost in consequence of this bad system. Mr. Plimsoll has succeeded in breaking it up; but he has done more. The result of the new legislation would be to limit every vessel to her class and period of years which it may sanction. After that the hull and spars must be demolished. The ordinary running period for ships would thus be reduced to an average probably of eight years. Whether builders will continue to expend great wealth and genius with the prospect of this limitation remains to be seen. The danger will be, that some other system of eluding the law will be sought. We would rather contemplate as a result, that, after reflection and experience, the law will be modified and Mr. Plimsoll's reformation itself improved. The wealth of our Lower Provinces consists in great part in their shipping interests. It is the duty of our public men to study these questions; and of our Journalists to expose whatever threatens the welfare of our community.

### THE OLD AND HOPELESS CONFLICT RENEWED.

Rev. Wm. Somerville is out in a series of letters, addressed to the *Protestant Witness*, on the subject of baptism. Within the limit of our recollection there have been some hundreds of conflicts more or less vigorous and able upon this topic. If we had credited the contending parties, there were marked victories gained in every case. But what are the facts? We cannot see that the question is settled as to the real meaning of baptism. This is equivalent to saying that the Baptist Church and press are still alive and hopeful. For what is the actual corner-stone of that body? In the spiritual sense, Christ of course; but in the doctrinal *summa*, baptism. They have not another distinctive idea or principle upon which to hang an idea. Let the question of baptism be settled—let it be seen beyond a peradventure that they are contending for a myth—and the whole fabric falls to pieces. In doctrine and discipline—save as to one or two matters of slight importance—the Baptist Church is a combination of Congregationalism, Presbyterianism and Methodism. Let baptism be disposed of and the entire ecclesiastical structure might as well resolve into its original elements. Around

this one word all the system revolves. Methodism has lived to introduce new doctrines; Calvinism the same; Congregationalism always contended for a peculiar type of Church government; the Episcopal Church is founded—we still speak of doctrines—on its articles and forms of ordination; Roman Catholicism contends for priestly supremacy; but, apart from immersion, what has the Baptist Church that it calls exclusively its own? Its doctrines, when they are not after John Wesley, are after John Knox; of its Polity and its hymns, it may be said they are eclectic—chosen from the mass, and with excellent judgment in some respects.

Our Baptist Brethren are doing good work. It is only to be regretted, that a word whose meaning none regard as essential to salvation, will oblige them to exclude other Christians from their feasts, and incite them to keep the world in hot water.

We give a specimen of Mr. Somerville's style:—

"When, some years ago, I published a small work on Baptism, I omitted all reference to the historical argument, and the Ed. M. generously intimated that the omission was owing to a fear of meeting that aspect of the question. He had my reply, with which he may have been more than satisfied; and I will not now submit to be dragged from the firm ground of Apostolobaptists can stand by me and examine all my statements, and plunge into a labyrinth where comparatively few can follow me, and from which when I come out, having made my report, they must take my word for what I have learned. I am willing to go the Scriptures with the most talented and distinguished Baptists—with the Ed. M. if he choose to occupy the humble office of a screen between the wind and their nobility." One with God is a majority. A child with God is almighty."

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, ESQUIRE, the true friend, and in some respects, representative of our Provincial Methodism in England, has written to the *London Recorder*, in reply to a letter noticed by us last week. He refers any who may be in doubt as to the position of Probationers coming to us from England, to Messrs. Albrighton, Churchill, Brewster, Butcher and others. There we may safely permit the matter to rest. These Brethren will give a convincing and loving testimony. From the front ranks of our Ministry here, they proceeded to England, where they have commanded respect and position. Colonies which can furnish such material as those we have enumerated need not blush for their Methodistic character or capabilities. The prospect which their lives opens to young men cannot be wonderfully discouraging.

THE MISSIONARY CAMPAIGN for this autumn should be entered upon early and with spirit. In those more central places, to which the Delegation expected from the West may be directed, the time must be regulated, of course, by circumstances. Early intimation will be given so soon as any certainty is reached respecting the announcements of those whom the Central Board may send down to us. Meantime, during the delightful weather of autumn, let plans be matured and executed by which to sustain this most important work.

Our Brethren, in conducting their meetings, will not forget that strong arm of the Church—the talent of the laity. During recent years enthusiasm has been widely awakened by sensible and earnest speeches from men previously permitted to remain silent. There are numbers about us whom God has qualified to look at missionary work from the business as well as the religious stand-point. In their hearts frequently there is fire burning which this subject has kindled and kept aglow. Call them out. Depute them to attend to distant meetings as well as those at home.

Contributions to this cause should this year be liberal. True, there have been straits in money matters; but our harvest has been abundant; no scourge has come upon the land. Gratitude demands a suitable return to the God of Providence. Devise liberal things, Christian friends.

REMARKABLE SWIMMING.—A girl of fourteen, named Beckwith, daughter of the champion swimmer of England, recently swam from London Bridge to Greenwich, a distance of over five miles, in one hour and eight minutes. This is believed to be the fastest swimming on record.

New Subscribers will receive the *Wesleyan* from 1st October till 1st January 1877, fifteen months, at \$2, postage paid.

AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN appeared to excellent advantage in Halifax last Wednesday morning. Early risers had a rare opportunity of observing, in a cloudless sky, and on one of the fairest of our ever-beautiful autumnal mornings, this profoundly interesting phenomenon.

SUBSCRIBERS will be kind enough to notify us, through their Ministers, or directly, should any error be made in addressing Papers this week. Our machinery and plans are all new, and will require a little time for adjusting.

THE BOOK ROOM, we observe with great satisfaction, has been replenished, under the direction of Mr. Martin B. Huestis, who has principal charge in that department. Importing directly from the manufacturers in England and America, every advantage which can be obtained from Booksellers, can be secured here. We question if there is a finer display of Sunday School requisites in the Lower Provinces, while in general literature and Stationery, &c., there are all excellent varieties. The Book Room has now become a resort, moreover, for Chromos, Illuminated Texts and Cards, having the only real assortment in the country.

PERSONAL.—The Deputation for the Central Missionary Board, to meet at Cobourg on the 12th inst., will leave next week. Rev. D. D. Currie and Howard Sprague, A.M., will represent the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, and Revs. A. W. Nicolson and S. F. Huestis the Nova Scotia. The Educational Board is to meet at Cobourg at the same time. Rev. J. Lathern for Nova Scotia and Dr. [Pickard] for New Brunswick will represent at the latter.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME, conducted by the Rev. T. B. Stephenson, B.A., Wesleyan Minister in England, forms the subject of an interesting article in another column. The writer had opportunities of personally ascertaining that information, a part of which he gives to our readers; and his cultivated habits of observation and reflection qualify him well to form a judgment upon the merits of such an institution. We hope the day is not far distant when the Maritime Provinces will have the benefit of such an excellent addition to their population as Mr. Stephenson's orphans would prove to be. They are undoubtedly better trained than any children who have come to us in a similar way. Cannot some representations be made by our authorities on this subject to Mr. Stephenson?

TEMPERANCE.—It is intimated that the principal manager of the London-derry Iron Mines has prohibited the sale of liquors on the Company's grounds. Let this ruling be sustained. If the reckless classes are ignorant of their sin and folly, it is the duty of good citizens to restrain and teach them. The seventh we has always followed in the path of this evil.

The *Temperance Alliance*, we perceive, has entered upon the enquiry,—"Why are not the influential and intellectual of our land found in the Temperance Lodge and Division Rooms?" That is a fair and important subject of discussion. But there are two or three reasons which have not been and are not likely to be touched by the *Alliance*.

Would the Temperance body like to hear them?

FORTY-EIGHT FEET OF SOLID TYPE is the extent of the Subscription List of the WESLEYAN, as we find the matter set up in our Composing-room. Not a mean commencement for the paper in its new form!

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.—The first case under the new law authorizing the confinement of habitual drunkards, upon the complaint of friends, came before Judge Smith, in the Supreme Court at Kentville, last week. The proceedings were taken against a well-known resident of the town by his father-in-law. The case occupied four days, and was then adjourned until the 10th of November.—*Chron.*

### THE CHILDREN'S HOME.

The Churches of England's metropolis is suffering post-and the is a necessary outgrowth. Some months since, for a large plain pile of the Bonner Road in the London, and were called "The Children's Home."

THE REV. T. B. STEPHENSON, an earnest and successful minister is the founder. On his appointment to a reputable part of the city of London. The notorious with all the courts and a behind it was his parish. Little children in a condition of filth and misery, their shoes, filthy; their faces, hunger, and premature staring out of their eyes. He felt he ought to do this direction. Moreover, time a record of successful encouraged him. He has a book called "Praying and how Immanuel Wicheru many established the Rant fuger for destitute and crime and how Theodore Flied blessed in connection with the Institute at Kaiserswe. Stephenson felt convinced some modifications their be operated in England. the Home he determined view four principles, child be brought up in families to have secular and religious—they must be taught to est living personal religious to the realization of the life.

STREET ARABS, WAIVES AND AN are the classes represented. To recruit the first class a midnight expedition is planned. Stephenson designates it "The Children's Home." Accompanied by two or three boys from the Home he goes errand of mercy. He provides with a lantern, is careful to self of a watch or any other reserving a few pence in it. The party proceeds to London streets and courts adjacent, destitute, homeless youth discovered. They are invited saloon—a supper is provided and addressed to them from the Home invite their companions and encourage company them. Many a youth in this way from a life of sin. Children of tender frequently sent to the institute the towns and cities of England have ceased to care or have been compelled in of inability to provide for their licit this charity on their behalfans also in numbers are

THE PROCESS OF TRAINING recognizes the idea enunciated late Dr. Guthrie. "God's bring up children not in families. Twenty children matron who is styled "mother to a family. The family, a distinct organization, known special name such as "The Children's Home," or "The Home," or some other distinctive name. The family thus constituted, associate at meal play hours, recognize each other Christian names, and as near illustrate the family character. The Institution is composed of all, these families morning all the children meet in the chapel of the Home, on days after religious service. The majority go to the carpenter boys pass to the carpenter printing office, or to shoemaking all upon the premises. They have their work in the kitchen, dry, book binding or sewing. When we visited the main institution for the Bonner bright morning at an early scene impressed us as one of the most and fraught with possible fold importance.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF COMMENCING IN 1869 with small apartments, it has branches—two in London, one in cashire, England, and the Hamilton, Canada. In the branches between two and three dred children are now in residence the farm in Lancashire there one hundred more, while a past year one hundred and ten ren have been sent through the dian branch, and have had homes procured for them. The Institution is supported by the generosity of the philanthropists, accomplishing a work the fruits of which are being seen in the ultimate results of which will run parallel with Christianity.