

WESLEYAN

The only Methodist Paper published in the Maritime Provinces.

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Having a large and increasing circulation in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Bermuda.

As an ADVERTISING MEDIUM IT HAS NO EQUAL in these Provinces.

Rev. S. ROSE, Methodist Book Room Toronto is Agent for this paper.

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1876.

Job Printing neatly and promptly executed at this Office.

HALIFAX SCHOOLS AGAIN.

The resolution of the Halifax School Board, virtually establishing separate schools, so far as their jurisdiction extends, cannot be allowed to pass in this law-abiding country. We have condemned it, and in doing so we have expressed the sentiments of the whole Methodist Church. Again and earnestly we call for "free non-sectarian schools, for a fair, honorable, uncompromising administration of the law to Roman Catholics and Protestants, to rich and poor, to white and black."

But the truth is this school for coloured children is simply dragged into this discussion to serve a purpose; it is used as a sort of offset to the unjust, unwise, and illiberal policy of closing one set of public schools against Roman Catholics and another set against Protestants. The ruse will not do. "That Resolution" must be tried on its own merits,—justified or condemned on its own merits. Let the Chronicle show us legal authority for the subjection of teachers to sectarian tests, and we shall have no more to say, except to urge a change in the law. But the law is all right in the letter of it, and in its spirit. It recognizes no right in any Board to establish sectarian tests. On the contrary it regards all citizens as possessing equal rights. To this law, to this policy, in its fulness and integrity the WESLEYAN now as ever adheres.

OFF FOR BERMUDA.—The Editor left by the Royal Mail Steamer "Beta" for "this sunny Island," last Monday at noon. At its recent Session, the Nova Scotia Conference instructed him, as ex-President, to proceed thither for the ordination of two young ministers there resident. He expects to return by the same steamer in about three weeks from date of leaving. Meantime the affairs of the Office are left in responsible hands, and all business will be attended to as usual.

Elsewhere will be found an announcement of a Bazaar in connection with the Halifax Infants' Home. The Institution, we learn, is doing good work in relieving distress and saving infant life. An average of nearly forty babies are cared for who otherwise would be left to perish. Our benevolent readers (and are not all Methodists benevolent?) would do well to remember this "Home."

McALPINE'S Directory for Halifax is out again, new, concise, invaluable for its thoroughly arranged details. We thank the publisher most heartily for this useful volume.

CANVAS FOR THE WESLEYAN.—It may be seen, by a little "figuring," that money may be made by obtaining new subscribers for the WESLEYAN. See

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.—Is it not time we were hearing, or seeing, something of this gathering? When and where is it to be held? We have delegates appointed from our General Conference to attend. Very probably others, not delegated, will accompany them. Not a few of our ministers would be glad to go "down South" when our neighbours are assembled.

A FRIEND AT A DISTANCE says: "I send this chiefly to congratulate you for the general excellence of the Nova Scotia Minutes. It will not suffer loss by comparison with the very best volume of the sort yet published. Somebodies must have taken pains. I thank you much."

The address of the Rev. Geo. Butcher is 38 Windmill St., Gravesend, Kent, England.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I am writing to-day and for the last time from my home in Aylesbury, and in the midst of numerous evidences of speedy removal. My sojourn at the Nottingham Conference was lengthy and the session was a most protracted one, as it was approaching midnight on Friday, the 11th of August, when the final Benediction was pronounced. It was throughout a pleasing and most memorable time, crowded with incidents of importance and legislation upon weightiest questions.

THE GREAT DEBATE

occupied a considerable part of four days. The decision was virtually that predicted in the closing paragraph of my last letter. But no one dared to anticipate the overwhelming majority by which the grand essential principle of Lay Representation was affirmed. When all the amendments were disposed of, and the question, square, simple and unmistakable was put, there appeared a clear majority of 320. It was a grand debate, and will occupy a prominent place in Methodist history. There was no reserve, the whole field was traversed, the ablest men on both sides were fully heard, and the men who were on the losing side appeared to act and speak under deep and strong feelings of solemn trust and responsibility. There was far less of temper and retort than might have been expected in view of the gravity of the question, and the wide divergence of opinion. There was no undue elation on the part of those who won, it was a solemn moment when the great vote was taken and a decision arrived at from which there can be no retreat.

THE PRESIDENT

contributed largely to the general good feeling of the Conference, by his admirable administration in the chair. With patience that appeared unflinching, with quiet pleasantry, with strictest impartiality, and marvellous skill, he piloted the brethren through that protracted discussion, and brought them to a final vote. Great grace was given unto him, and the experiment of lifting an unofficial man, direct from the floor, to the chair of the Conference, has proved in this instance a great success.

THE STATIONING

of so many brethren was this year a work of much difficulty, and the manner in which it was performed, less satisfactory than the other business of the Conference. The large number of official vacancies, the sickness of several prominent men, and other causes, unsettled to a large extent the arrangement of the First Draft. The prolonged debate was in the way of an early second reading, so that it was not until the Conference has been in session a fortnight, viz., on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 9th, that the reading came off. The discussion upon special cases, and the claims of special circuits, revealed how great had been the perplexities of the Representatives in their secret conclaves, and in many instances the Conference had to decide for itself. Then it was necessary to take the final reading with the brief interval of part of a day, and settle the whole matter on Thursday night. This was done, but not without painful episodes, and sudden changes for men and circuits. It was a lively time for the telegraph operators, and circuit stewards who in person came to attend to the appointments, but all could not be suited and many preachers failed to obtain that on which they had set their hearts.

THE CLOSING DAY

was distinguished by a rush of work, and the setting aside of business which could afford to wait. The Secretaries, were at full speed, and despatched any amount of official and routine matter, but appeared to forget nothing that was really important and that ought to appear in the Minutes. Dr. Williams the Secretary, is a great worker and a most efficient man in his own department, and is aided by some experienced

of Nottingham has earned a high tribute of respect and thanks for the extent and manner of its entertainment of so large a Conference. It will henceforth take rank among the great centres claiming the honor and distinction of a Conference town or city.

THE GREAT WHEEL

of the Itinerary carries me this year. My third year upon this circuit has passed, and if spared, I trust to renew my correspondence, as soon as I am settled in my new home. B. August 21, 1876.

CORRESPONDENCE

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH, P. E. I.

DEAR EDITOR.—The following sums have been received or promised since my last, viz.:—Rev. W. C. Hamilton, Angus McMillan, M.P.P.; F. W. Strong, and Miss M. L. Henry, of Summerside, five dollars each. Wright Bros. (10) ten dollars, D. S., a friend, T. C. Baker, Hannah Bentley, one dollar each. Thos. Morris, C. P. Fletcher, J. H. Fletcher, Arch. Holmes, five dollars each. Edward Mayhew, and James Chaffery, two dollars each. J. J. Gay, and George Milner, one dollar each. We are now busy at work shingling the new church. Send along your subscriptions at once.

H. J. CLARKE.

A BRIEF REPORT OF METHODISM ON THE GREENSPOND CIRCUIT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As no report of the work of God, in connection with the Methodist Church, on the Greenspond Circuit, has appeared in the columns of the WESLEYAN from any minister who has labored there recently, I think it a duty devolving on me to furnish a brief one, and to give the readers a better idea of the work accomplished, I have noticed the progress from its beginning. In the History of "Newfoundland and its Missionaries," the state of society at Greenspond, and the desirability of sending a missionary is mentioned. Page 326, the author writes, "In the summer of 1826, Mr. Corlett made a mission tour of the North, and visited Green's Pond, which lies some forty miles to the north of Bonavista, and was then our most northern station. That region of the country was then in a fearful state of demoralization,

Sabbath breaking and gross immorality were carried to such an extent that Green's Pond was often called the "Sodom of the North." Mr. Corlett, in the journal of his visit, says,—Sunday, July 2nd, 1826, I walked through the harbor to see what the people were doing, and found, as I had previously heard, that the merchants stores were all open. I saw some purchasing shoes, others fishing material, provisions, &c. In a word I found that Sunday is what may emphatically be called the market day at Green's Pond. The people are not, however, so abandoned as with one consent to prosecute the fishing on the Sabbath day." The same day, in the evening, a little more than fifty years ago, he preached to a very tumultuous company. A few of the hearers appreciated the sermon so much that the preacher, when retiring, heard them say, that he "should be thrown into the water." This was the first sermon that was preached by a Methodist missionary at Green's Pond.

Mr. Corlett closes his interesting journal with the following observations:—"Green's Pond is in great want of a missionary. There are about five hundred Protestants, and one hundred Catholics; besides, there are Protestants at the following places, which may be easily visited with the happiest effects. Middle Bill Cove, Finchard's Island, Swain's Island, Fools' (Pools) Island, Gooseberry Island, and Pouch Island." After a lapse of thirty-six years, Mr. Corlett's hopes in reference to Green's Pond have been realized. In our Minutes, for 1861, we read, "Green's Pond to be supplied." The next year it received an appointment, for in the Station Sheet we read, "Green's Pond, John S. Allen;" and in the Minutes for last year (1863) Green's Pond returns twenty members in society, and twenty-four on trial; and four dollars as its first contribution towards the mission fund." Bro. Allen is still remembered affectionately by many, who, under his ministry, were made partakers of the saving grace of God. Bro. J. Toddhunter followed him. The Lord made him very useful. The force and sharpness of the word spoken by him, pierced the hearts of many sinners, causing them to cry aloud in agony, as if a sword had entered their souls; until they found relief through faith in Christ. The work advanced gloriously under him, but not without great opposition from the devil, who stirred up many enemies against the truth (which is not to be wondered at, after reading the above extracts). But in many cases those who seemed the boldest were soon conquered, and became noble workers for Jesus. Bro. Howie's name is the next on the Minutes.

and discipline the infant church. In his time neither Musgrave Harbor nor Musgrave Town had a minister, both of these places received pastoral visits from him. After his removal a year or more passed without a supply, and when Bro. Dalton arrived he was received gladly. But his time for usefulness was limited to a few weeks. During these weeks he laboured winning the affections of all. Young, talented, and amiable, he was called from a sorrowing church to his eternal rest. When he died hundreds wept. His grave is marked by a monument appropriately inscribed, and erected by the Newfoundland District. Several months passed before another was sent to watch over the "little flock. The man appointed was Bro. Matthews, who labored energetically and successfully for more than three years. So rapidly did the work go forward in that time that from fifty members the number increased to two hundred and ten, and sixty on trial, and attendance on public worship one thousand. When leaving he took one of the two hundred and ten to increase his joys and share his sorrows. A new, beautiful, and comfortable church, capable of seating seven hundred people, was nearly finished, and will long remain a memorial of his faith and energy, without which it would not have been built, the prospect was so discouraging. But to the astonishment of many who expected the enterprise to prove a failure, the work advanced until completed in 1875. I had then labored one year on the circuit, being Bro. Matthews successor. Green's Pond circuit includes all the places mentioned in Mr. Corlett's journal, and many more, and is more than fifty miles in extent, having a rapidly increasing population of nearly five thousand Protestants.

The Church mentioned above is situated at Green's Pond, and is an ornament to the village. One at Swain's Islands, commenced in 1874, is so far completed that last spring we opened it to hold divine service in during the summer. At that service such a manifestation of the Master's presence was realized by the worshippers that each regarded it as an earnest of good. At Middle Bill Cove, Cape Freels, the frame of another is up and partly boarded in, and nearly \$200 are now in hand towards finishing it. So large and important has the circuit become, that the last Conference decided to send an additional man if one can be obtained.

There are many laymen who do good work for Jesus at home and abroad. In almost every harbor a good prayer meeting can be held, and some one found to conduct it when the minister is absent. The Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," so little regarded in former years, is now so strictly observed by many that if they are sailing and cannot reach their destination on Saturday night, they will moor their craft in some convenient harbor and spend the Sabbath serving the Lord, on shore if a place to do so can be found, if not on board.

Last summer, at Cape Norman (French Shore so called), where a number of our people were fishing, when Sabbath came, not being permitted to hold service in any house through prejudice, in the open air they engaged in divine worship, and hundreds of different classes came to unite with them. Thus the little sparks of heavenly love kindled in the hearts of some who dwell in the "Sodom of the North" is still burning and spreading, and will, we believe, until the thousands who know not the love of Christ shed abroad in their hearts, will catch the flame, and live for the Lord.

While the Lord has blessed many harbors, in an especial manner has he blessed the inhabitants of Middle Bill Cove. There most of the adults, and many of the children are members. Every mother is trying to serve God. Pure love seems to reign in every professor's heart. No discord, happened to mar their happiness the two years I was with them. It is the nearest type of Paradise I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. Often have I felt it in my heart to live and die with them. But even their death is a visitor. Again and again has he taken a sheep or a lamb from that "green pasture." Rejoicing in the hour of death they have gone to enjoy the rest promised to the people of God.

Several Sabbath-schools are organized, which will greatly benefit the rising generation. The one at Green's Pond is in a prosperous condition and gives great promise of good. A few of the scholars belonging to the schools at Green's Pond and Middle Bill Cove were converted last winter.

The returns this year show an increase for the two last years of more than one hundred members, and five hundred attendance on public worship. Also four Sabbath-schools.

Scanning the future from the present standpoint the prospect is glorious, and we hope that soon the members will be numbered by thousands.

and the Episcopal Church, who showed their love by giving us many useful presents, some of which will long remain mementos of the donors.

J. EMBREE.

Blackhead, Aug. 25, 1876.

SCILLY COVE, NEWFOUNDLAND.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Having read several letters in your valuable paper from Newfoundland, I thought that a few lines respecting my sphere of labour would not be unacceptable. It was on the 18th of October, 1875, I left England for Newfoundland, and we arrived at St. Johns in about seven days after. As a stranger in a far country you may reasonably conjecture that I felt very lonely. But when introduced to the Rev. T. Harris, the President of the Conference, all my fears were scattered to the wind, for his very appearance made an impression on my mind that he was a loving, kind worthy man; truly amiable and entertaining. Having received my appointment, I left St. John's for Carbonear, to see Rev. James Dove, Chairman of the District. Mr. Dove appeared to me as kind as a father, and the Christian courtesy with which it pleased him and Mrs. Dove to treat me will long be remembered. After a few days rest I left Carbonear for Scilly Cove in the Hant's Harbour Circuit, a little place on the south side of Trinity Bay, between Hant's Harbour and Heart's Content, where I have since laboured in conjunction with my esteemed superintendent, the Rev. T. H. James; and I may add that our labour has been crowned with success. We have here a neat little church and a goodly number of earnest hearers. Before a preacher was sent to Scilly Cove the Hant's Harbour Minister only visited this place every third Sabbath; and thus from insufficient ministerial labour the church in Scilly Cove was in a low state. During the minister's absence services were conducted by Mr. Jasper Hiscock, who is worthy of much praise for his faithful and long continued service to our church. When we arrived here the number meeting in class was 26. Now, we are pleased to say the number is nearly doubled. At the beginning of the present year we held three weeks special services which resulted in bringing many souls to Jesus, as the Saviour of sinners. We praise God for his converting and quickening grace. Still Mr. Editor, we cannot say that it has been all sunshine with us, we have some difficulties to contend with. The Episcopalians tried last winter, and are still trying to the best of their ability, to impede our progress. They formed a Female society, the members of which are vigorously prohibited attending a Methodist place of worship. Tracts were also distributed; one of which I send you, sincerely trusting that you will explain and expatiate upon the same, in order that our people may understand it better, and perchance it would have no bad effect upon many of the Episcopalians.

Notwithstanding Fishermen and Female Societies, our congregation at Scilly Cove has largely increased. Allow me to mention one case to show that Societies founded on sandy principles cannot impede the progress of the work of God. An Episcopalian family visited our church, and during the service they felt the constraining influence of the Holy Spirit. The following day they sent for their parson, reasonably thinking that he would direct them to the Lamb of God. He went thither, with his Common prayer book in his hand. They told him that they had been praying the past night for a change of heart, but he sarcastically told them that they were regenerated at their baptism. Then the woman asked him to explain the words: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." The parson went home silently, having no more to say on the subject. This family came out boldly from among them, and joined our Society, and since they have been very consistent and faithful members. We have at present a lively Church, good congregational singing, and a very prosperous Sabbath School, numbering on an average sixty three scholars. We are now busily preparing for a Sabbath school anniversary, which will be the first ever held in this part of Trinity Bay. Indeed, Mr. Editor, I would never wish a happier place to labour than Scilly Cove. It is true, that many of the people are very poor, but according to their means their hospitality is boundless. They are very kind to their ministers. And I am glad to say that they never forget to show their grateful appreciation of the Gospel in a financial point of view. This is the Jerusalem of my mission, I have, also, to travel through unpleasant Samaria. The next place on this part of the Mission is New Port-au-Loup. We have no place of worship here, but during the Winter and Spring services were conducted regularly in a private dwelling house. The congregation here is fluctuating, sometimes the house over-crowded, and at other times only merely the family, it has been ours to labour hard

and discipline the infant church. In his time neither Musgrave Harbor nor Musgrave Town had a minister, both of these places received pastoral visits from him. After his removal a year or more passed without a supply, and when Bro. Dalton arrived he was received gladly. But his time for usefulness was limited to a few weeks. During these weeks he laboured winning the affections of all. Young, talented, and amiable, he was called from a sorrowing church to his eternal rest. When he died hundreds wept. His grave is marked by a monument appropriately inscribed, and erected by the Newfoundland District. Several months passed before another was sent to watch over the "little flock. The man appointed was Bro. Matthews, who labored energetically and successfully for more than three years. So rapidly did the work go forward in that time that from fifty members the number increased to two hundred and ten, and sixty on trial, and attendance on public worship one thousand. When leaving he took one of the two hundred and ten to increase his joys and share his sorrows. A new, beautiful, and comfortable church, capable of seating seven hundred people, was nearly finished, and will long remain a memorial of his faith and energy, without which it would not have been built, the prospect was so discouraging. But to the astonishment of many who expected the enterprise to prove a failure, the work advanced until completed in 1875. I had then labored one year on the circuit, being Bro. Matthews successor. Green's Pond circuit includes all the places mentioned in Mr. Corlett's journal, and many more, and is more than fifty miles in extent, having a rapidly increasing population of nearly five thousand Protestants.

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