NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

PASTORAL ADDRESS.

Dearly Beloved Brethren:—

Assembled once again in Annual Conference, we send you with pleasure our Pastoral Greeting. Grace be unto you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Meeting as we do with ranks unbroken by death, preserved by God's good providence from the power of disease, and from peril by land and sea, blessed with the greatest earthly gift we know,—the knowledge that to many our ministry has been a savor of life unto life; in retrospect of the past, in anticipation of the future, and in present deliberation and prayer for the furtherance of the work committed to our trust, we thank God and take courage.

The past year has been in many respects a trying one. Poverty and its attendant distress have been felt on many of our circuits, and the stormy and cold winter has rendered more difficult and laborious the work of travel and preaching.

Terrible disasters have thrown a gloom over some of our circuits and brought bereavement—all the more sad because unlooked for—to some of our people's homes. Yet, there is a bright side to the record.

Blessed revivals, resulting in large ingatherings of precious souls are reported by some of our brethren, and the general review of the year's work shows our cause to be increasing in solidity, and our people to be advancing in depth of piety and intelligent sympathy with the aims of our Church. Our membership increases. We report this year 7,588 fully accredited members, with 565 on trial, an advance of 294 full members.

Our Sabbath School work shows signs of vigorous growth, and we hope it will become more and more a power for the conversion and Christian nurture of our young people, as the facilities for its increase and development are afforded and brought into use; and our Day schools under the fostering hand of our zealous Superintendent, Rev. G. S. Milligan, L.L.D., are steadily increasing in numbers and efficiency. We are getting better schools and better teachers, and common school education is being placed more and more within the reach of our outlying settlements.

Two young brethren have been received on trial, as probationers for our Ministry, and one, who has successfully passed his four years' term of trial, has been received into full connexion and ordained. Two brethren formerly at work among us have spent the past year at our Sackville Institution, to equip themselves more fully for their sacred duties. We have had good reports of their faithfulness and progress.

We are thankful to be able to report an improvement in finances, and we bespeak your continued and increased liberality in providing for the workers God sends among you. "Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

The past year has marked a significant era in the history of Methodism. The Ecumenical Conference held last Autumn in the city of London, not only drew closer the bonds of brotherhood between the different branches of the Methodist family, but brought out in clearer relief the great work which God has entrusted to our care, and the wonderful way in which He has blessed us.

We are now one of the largest Protestant bodies in the world. Let us try to be the holiest, the humblest, the most alive to God, and to the needs of perishing souls.

The coming year will be an important one to our own branch of Methodism. At the General Conference, shortly to be holden in Hamilton, questions of deep interest will be under discussion. Pray that the guiding hand of the All-wise Father may be felt and followed.

Our Conference gathering has been refreshing and cheering to us. We have exchanged our views on the different topics connected with our work, we have prayed one for another, we have sought the influence and presence of the Master of assemblies; we have sat together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. As we look out upon another year, ye are on our hearts and in our prayers. "For this cause we bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might, by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.

Cultivate a deep and earnest piety. Get near to God in private prayer, and self surrender, and walk with Him in practical every day doing of His will. Evince the power of godliness in transforming the mind, by lives full of holy words and holy deeds. Christ wants men in the office, the store, the workshop, the fishing boat, to win souls to Him by the irresistible sermons of holy lives. Search the Scriptures; search them as the revealed will of God, not casually and formally, but digging into their mines, to bring up the gold and precious stones of Divine Truth. Hide His word in your hearts, that you may not sin against Him.

Value, and faithfully use the Class meeting. We cannot too strongly urge you to prize this much blessed agency of our Church—the back-bone of Methodism; as outside brethren declare it to be a means of nurture and stimulus to all the deeper and nobler breathings of the soul.

Let your piety be intelligent and thoughtful. Read good books—the results of good and great men's living and thinking. Our Conference employs a Colporteur, specially to bring books of standard value to your very doors. Patronize him liberally, and thus help to maintain and extend this good work.

We commend to you our Church paper—the *Wesleyan*, so greatly improved, both for its general excellence and because it will give you information as to our special work, and increase your interest in its spread and success. Once get a love for the *Wesleyan's* regular visit and realize it to be, as you will a benefit in matters temporal and spiritual, and you will not regret taking it even at a sacrifice. While on this point, we feel bound to give you a word of warning. Keep your families from the pernicious influence of the cheap sensational periodicals, so largely advertised and pushed by unscrupulous publishers and their agents, chiefly in the United States; and too often found upon the tables of our respectable people. Wild, impure, giving false views of life and fostering prurient and morbid habits of thought and feeling, they are sapping the morals and corrupting the manners of the young in other countries, and their evil influence is being felt in our own. As you value the purity and truthfulness of your children, keep these papers and books from them, and supply their place with the sound, pure, healthy, interesting reading matter, so cheaply and plentifully supplied by our own and kindred publishing houses.

Upon those among you who are parents, we would impress most earnestly the solemn responsibility of your position, and exhort you to persevering prayer and effort for the conversion of your children while still within the home circle. Bring them early to the House of God. Impress upon them by precept and example the sanctity of the Sabbath. Imbue their minds with the principles, and their memories with the words of Holy Writ. Consider them as your most sacred charge, and let them know that their conversion is your aim in all your training. Pray with and for them. Secure their regular attendance at the Sabbath School. Encourage the teachers by visiting the schools, and by home drill of the children, in the lessons they receive.

Give your earnest and prayerful support to the means employed for the suppression of intemperance, that monster evil which is devastating so many homes and destroying so many souls. Encourage the Band of Hope by sending your children, and the Temperance Societies by your own adherence. We rejoice in the passing of the Local Option Bill, albeit it does not cover all the ground. Strive to make it operative in the different localities in which it may be put in force, and to extend its influence all over the land.

It is a source of deep gratitude and satisfaction to us that our Church is free from the crime of fostering or fawning upon the liquor traffic. Methodism and Rum are foes irreconcilable—eternal. May God keep us pure, and purify the universal church in this particular!

In conclusion, brethren beloved, conscious of the vast importance of the work of the Christian Ministry, and of the need of being endued with power from on high, we seek a continued interest in your prayers. "Brethren, pray for us." Pray that we may have wisdom, in the direction of Church business—in our official assemblies and on circuit. Pray that we may be unselfish, losing narrow minded anxiety for place and convenience, in all absorbing love for Christ and for Christ's sheep, scattered and unfolded. Pray that to each of us souls-saving may be a passion, that our Founder's definition of a minister's one business,—to save his own soul, and the souls of those that hear him, may be the heart motive of every man among us. Pray that the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the Baptism of Fire, may rest upon us collectively, and individually, that so in every circuit, the minister may be the leading man, the standard bearer of the Church, by earnest word inciting to the heights and depths of holiness, and by blameless life exemplifying the beauty of the truths he preaches, and the possibility of their attainment.

"Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever—Amen.

Signed on behalf of the Conference.

JOHN S. PEACH, *President.*
WILLIAM W. PERCIVAL, *Secretary.*

MEMORIAL NOTICES.

PUGWASH.

Our entrance upon the third year's pastorate of this circuit, has been saddened by the death of two aged standard bearers. They, having served their day and generation according to the will of God, have passed from a state of grace below, to a state of glory above. E. E. E.

WILLIAM HARRISON,

Whose name for many years has stood in honorable connection with our Church at Wallace Bay, was called to his reward while we were attending the Conference. He was converted and joined the Church about forty-five years ago. From the commencement of his Christian life to the close he maintained an unblemished character. His piety was sincere, deep, and eminently practical, being established in every good word and work. Strongly attached to Methodism, he was faithful, laborious and useful in the discharge of his official duties, as class-leader, trustee, S. S. superintendent, and local preacher. During the last eight months of his life, he was principally confined to his home, gradually declining in strength, but invariably retaining a lively sense of the divine presence and rejoicing in God. He departed this life in the sure prospect of eternal life.

ELISHA BROWN,

Also an old faithful member of Wallace Bay Church, finished his earthly course on the 24th ult. Some forty-seven years ago he was brought to a knowledge and experience of the truth under the earnest preaching of the Rev James Buckley. He at once united with the Church and held fast the profession of his faith, ever maintaining a spotless reputation for morality and religion. Though naturally reticent in regard to his spiritual experience, he had a good report of all men and of the truth itself.

For many years he filled the important offices of steward and trustee with much faithfulness. His last illness, like that of Bro. Harrison, was a gradual and gentle decay, in which he was graciously supported. Relying on the all-sufficient merit of his Saviour and rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God, he quietly fell asleep in Jesus. To him the words of the Psalmist may be appropriately applied, "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

MISCELLANEOUS.

FRIDAY.—A Chicago newspaper to refute the notion that Friday is an unlucky day, says: It was on Friday that Columbus sailed from Spain. It was on Friday that he returned to Spain. It was on Friday that he discovered this continent, though he did not know then what he had discovered. It was on Friday that the Mayflower entered the harbor of Provincetown. It was on Friday that the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. It was on Friday that they drew up the memorable contract, the precursor of our present constitution. It was on Friday that Geo. Washington was born. It was on Friday that Bunker Hill was occupied, that British arms at Saratoga and Yorktown surrendered to American patriots, and Arnold's treason was exposed, and it was on Friday that the motion of national independence was made in Congress. But this proves nothing; for if one should hunt for sinister events which took place on Friday, he could find just as many at least.

PEW RENTS.

A clergyman was preaching in a church near Liverpool on a Sunday in May last, and he introduced the question of letting or selling pews in places of worship, and as an illustration of the views he advocated and held, he told the following anecdote of the late Bishop Selwyn: In his New Zealand diocese it was proposed to allot the seats of a new church, when the Bishop asked on what principle the allotment was to be made, to which it was replied that the largest donors should have the best seats, and so on in proportion. To this arrangement, to the surprise of every one the Bishop assented, and presently the question arose who had given the most. This, it was answered, should be decided by the subscription-list. "And now,' said the Bishop, "who has given the most? The poor widow in the temple in casting into the treasury her two mites had cast in more than they all; for they of their abundance had cast in their gifts, but she of her penury had cast in all her living." The impossibility was at once apparent of making the subscriptions to the church any test of priority in pews, and therefore the church was declared free and unappropriated. The reverend gentleman then mentioned that his future sphere of work lay in the Liverpool Cathedral, where this principle was in operation—that a church on earth was like heaven above, where there could be no precedence, all being on the same level worshipping their one King and God.—*Albion, in N. Y. Advocate*

ARTILLERY.

The bombardment of Alexandria, the New York *Evangelist* says, supplies a test of the marvellous degree of perfection to which heavy artillery has been brought in our day. The *Inflexible* carries four 80 ton guns, each of which monsters is about twenty-seven feet in length, with a bore sixteen inches in diameter. The ordinary service charge is 370 pounds of powder, behind a 1700 pounds projectile. This latter is of chilled iron, four feet in length, and a little less in diameter than the bore of the gun. Imagine a mass of iron, conical at one end, with a cavity of five inches by thirty six in the middle of it to receive a bursting charge, and altogether nearly as big as two lager-beer kegs placed end to end. At an ordinary range it will pierce twenty inches of wrought iron, with a similar thickness of teak-wood between the three iron plates, and will then burst with tremendous energy. The guns discharging these terrific missiles are housed within thickly armored revolving turrets, are operated entirely with hydraulic machinery, and are invisible except when their muzzles appear at the orifices through which they deal out death and destruction. The instant the shot has gone forth the colossal gun glides back to be washed out, sponged, and reloaded by machinery so perfect that a child can control its every motion; the turret mean time revolves, and the companion piece hurls out its 1,700-pounds charge of iron.

TREADING WATER.

Children in every instance ought to be made to tread water, from their earliest age, say in shallow slate baths with blood-warm water, or when convenient and suitable, in some river, pond, or in the open sea. A leather belt with ring, and a stout rod with line and hook are employed by Portuguese mothers to instruct their children. The mother, rod in hand, stands on the brink. The child learns in the water. In Paris swimming schools the same procedure is resorted to. The business cannot be begun too soon. I saw mere infants sustaining themselves perfectly in the tepid waters of Africa. Treading water is far safer than swimming in a broken sea. Every adult, man or woman, who has not practiced it, should begin. Once the conviction instilled that the body is lighter than water, the risk of drowning is reduced to zero. The process involves no uncertainty, no delay. Very different from swimming, it can be acquired at once.—*Nature.*

HOOSIER.

The origin of the word "Hoosier" is now discussed by the Indiana papers, but Dr. Aaron Wood, the oldest Methodist clergyman in that state, appears to have settled it by an incident which he relates to the Michigan City *Dispatch*, as follows: "A learned foreigner by the name of Leminouski, formerly a soldier under Napoleon, during the ten years intervening between 1823 and 1830 lectured extensively on the wars of Europe to the pioneers of this state. In his discourses the value of the Hussars was conspicuous, but his accent was not English and he pronounced that body hoosiers. During the excavation of the canal at the falls of the Ohio, through Kentucky, a young man from Washington County, Indiana, on the grounds one day, fought and whipped three Kentuckians. Highly elated at the conclusion, amid a torrent of backwoods profanity he exclaimed: "I'm a hoosier," from Leminouski's pronounciation of Hussar. From that day to the present the term has been applied to all citizens of Indiana."

BREVITIES.

Leisure is time for doing something useful.

The law can never make a man honest. It can only make him very uncomfortable when he is dishonest.

A great many men are cottage-built; that is to say, they have but one story and are forever telling it."

Steamboat companies are not behind the philanthropist in doing a great deal to encourage people to learn to swim.

"Always pay as you go," an old uncle said to his nephew. "But, uncle, suppose I have nothing to pay with?" "Then don't go."

A paper in the neighborhood of Rochester, N.Y., advertises a church pew for sale, "commanding a beautiful view of nearly the whole congregation."

"There are more people that go to Europe the second time than the first," "remarked a gentleman, the other day; and he could not understand why the company laughed.

The most comfortable business for the stay-at-home at this time of year is to keep an apple-stand on some shady corner where there are not many customers.

A Philadelphia woman, finding it impossible to keep a tidy on an easy chair, has accomplished the same end by sewing it on the back of her husband's dressing-gown.

A medical journal devotes a whole column to explaining what caused cold perspiration. Any one who has gone up a dark alley and stepped on a dog would be wasting valuable time in reading it.

The girl who sings to an admiring company in the parlor, "You must wake and call me early, mother, dear," is the same creature who expects her mother to make the fire, get the milk, and bring her breakfast up to her room.

Mr. Spurgeon, in one of his addresses to his students, said, amongst many other good things: "*Master the books you have.* Read them thoroughly. Bathe in them until they saturate you. Read and re-read them, masticate and digest them. Let them go into your very self. Peruse a good book several times, and make notes and analyses of it."

A pastor has made a recent discovery, by means of which he can tell with almost absolute certainty who are the faithful, working, praying members of any church. He says: "Those who pray the longest in public, pray the least in the closet. Those who grumble, or boast the most of what has been accomplished, do the least."

Rev. S. Dunn, of Sacramento, is in the habit of seeing the ludicrous side of things. His little daughter is very much like him. When he was a pastor in this city the little girl, by some means, strayed out of her reckoning, and was lost in the diagonals of the city. A kind-hearted policeman, seeing her crying, went to her and said, "My dear, where does your father live?" "That." said the worthy daughter, sobbing, "is just what I'd like to know."—*Californ ia Advocate.*

"Excellent sermon this morning," said Deacon Goodwill to his neighbor, as they lingered in the vestibule to shake hands with the brethren. "Well, purty good. Ain't quite up to old Parson Slocum. He used to give it to 'em straight. He preached agin wickedness in the land." "To be sure, but this man preaches right to us, personally." "That's jest the trouble. I go to church to hear other folks pitched into. I don't want to be rankled up myself." Just then the minister passed along, and with a dubious shake of the head he cut short this remark.—*New Haven Register.*

In the *Fortnightly* a critic says: "One of the most unwholesome—because unreal—tendencies of the present day is to force an interest in art beyond its natural limits." It is, it is. When a man has been led through a friend's new house and seen painted peacocks on door panels, landscapes on coal-scuttles and embroidered battle scenes on spittoon covers; been compelled to admire pug dogs done in blue china, and drink ice-water from a pitcher faithfully modelled after an African's head, he is not to be blamed for feeling that the influence of art is almost as unwholesome as that of small-pox.

If I had another life to live and two thousand letters to write again, with God's help I would not hurt the feelings of the humblest of all God's creatures honestly trying to do good. He might be as big as Daniel Lambert, and I would not call him fat and unctuous; he might be as lean as Calvin Edson and I would not call him a bag of bones. I would count every day lost on which I had not plucked up some thorns or planted some flowers on the path of human life. No man can so live without enjoying life. Dogs will snarl at him, but angels are around him. He may never have riches or fame, but better than both are friends and God.—*S. I. Prime.*

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