

The Wesleyan,

217

Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
Editor and Publisher.

Published under the direction of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

\$2 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE
Postage Prepaid.

VOL. XXVIII

HALIFAX, N.S., JULY 8, 1876.

NO. 28

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVA
SCOTIA CONFERENCE.**

ORDINATION SERVICE, JUNE 28.

The ordination service which is always in connection with our Conference an event of great interest, was held in the Windsor Methodist church, on Monday evening, commencing at 7 1/2 o'clock. The spacious house was packed to its utmost capacity, by those who were desirous of witnessing, many of them probably for the first time, this impressive ceremony. Five young men who had by a four years' probation, proved their fitness, were set apart to the work of the Christian ministry. The President opened the service by giving out the hymn on the 670th page, after which the Rev. R. Smith engaged in prayer.

The Secretary then presented the young men to the President and the congregation, and stated in a very clear and concise manner the course by which these candidates had found their way upward to their present position. He showed that it is only by proving themselves, by the fruits of their labours to be men of God, and men called by God, that they could come before the Conference to be ordained as preachers of the Gospel of Christ.

The President addressed a few words to the candidates, and then required each to give a short account of his conversion and call to the ministry. Arthur Hockin said:

Mr. President—Fathers and Brethren I stand here to-night as a monument of God's mercy. Since coming here, my mind has been running over the past. Never do I remember the time when I had no religious impressions. One of the first pictures upon my memory is that of the old home and myself climbing upon my father's knee to read with him my verse of the Scripture in the family devotions. At the age of 16 years I went out into the world and about this time through the urgent and faithful entreaties of a loved Sabbath school teacher I was persuaded to give myself to the service of God. For about a month I was halting between God and the world, hesitating about giving up to Christ. At the end of the month I had concluded that perhaps never I gave up now I never would. One Friday night after attending the class meeting and walking home with my Sabbath school teacher I returned to my own home and in the quiet of my room I turned myself to God, determining to be altogether the Lord's, and pleading in this manner, Lord, I perish—I perish at thy feet, own right hand, and he has led me here. He heareth me on. May he keep me and lead me even to the end for his mercy's sake. Amen.

WILLIAM AINSLEY
said—Mine is a simple story of Jesus and his love. Some eight years ago I yielded to the workings of the Holy Spirit and gave my heart to God, from that time to this I have striven to serve Him, and today my love for Him is greater, and my desire to serve Him stronger than ever before. It is my privilege to live in the enjoyment of a present interest in Christ and I am desiring to go on unto perfection, to live with the light of God's reconciling countenance continually resting upon me, to know and feel my sins forgiven.
With regard to my call to the work of preaching the Gospel it is some seven years since God's servants called me to occupy the pulpit and God's Spirit called me to the work. After laboring for twelve months as a local preacher feeling dissatisfied with the results of my labors, not seeing any fruit, I prayed God to give me a proof of my call to the work or permit me to retire from it, he gave me that proof in the salvation of souls under my next sermon.

In the year 1872, after a year's toil in the Home Mission work, God called me very unexpectedly by that honoured and now crowned servant of His, the Rev. George Scott, D.D. to this field of labour, and to-night I appear before you fully convinced of my call to this work, and desire more than ever to preach effectively that gospel which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," and the language of my heart is
Happy, if with my latest breath
I may but gasp his name;
Preach him to all, and cry in death,
"Behold, behold the Lamb."

WILLIAM BROWN
said. To me the present is a solemn time and place. A solemn time because I am called to review the past and cherish hopes for the future—a solemn place because I stand in the presence of God and these witnesses to offer my soul and body's powers in humble consecration to the Divine service.
Some nine years ago, under the Rev. D. W. Jelachur, I was by the Spirit of God, convinced of my need of an interest in the atonement of Christ. After some time spent in darkness and doubt I was enabled, by the grace of God, to trust my soul for full salvation upon the atonement of Christ.
"My chains fell off—my soul was free."
As regards my call to the ministry, I may say, that early in life, before my conversion, I felt that my greatest delight would be to preach the gospel. After my conversion this feeling deepened into a firm conviction that God called me to, and would have me engage in this work. So strong was this impression that I too felt, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel."
Now I consecrate myself anew fully, for time and for eternity, and the language of my heart is
Take me, body, spirit, soul,
Only thou possess the whole.

JAMES SCOTT
said. Feeling my own weakness my prayer has been, The Lord help me. My mind has been carried back to the days of childhood when I learned to lip the prayer "Our Father," at the knees of my good old grand-parents, my father having died when I was very young. I was the subject of early religious impressions, at the age of 10 years I was fully convicted of sin, felt my need of pardon and after what seemed a long and weary struggle obtained this great blessing. From childhood I had an impression that my Heavenly Father called me to the work of the ministry. At the age of 15, my beloved pastor the Rev. Thos. Duncan pressed this matter upon me, and offered to send me to the Normal school in Glasgow. I consented, but being an only son my mother opposed it for fear that I might be sent out as a missionary. My attention was then turned in another direction.
Still impressed with my call in this direction I came to this country, landing in St. John in 1866. I there commenced my studies for this purpose, and afterward came to Halifax to prosecute them. Not meeting with the encouragement I wished, I was induced to enter into business. In this, although God blessed me, I was not satisfied. Seven years since I left the Presbyterian Church and joined the Methodists, and shortly after began to preach to a coloured church every fortnight. Here my labours were blessed, and I felt, more than ever, constrained to devote myself wholly to the work. I placed my case in the hands of the Superintendent of the Halifax Circuit, by whom I was recommended to the District. Since I have been in the ministry God has blessed my labours by pouring out His Holy Spirit upon every station upon which I have laboured, and making me instrumental in saving souls. My sufficiency is of God. I pray him to make me faithful.

John Astbury was not called upon on account of the lateness of the hour. His career in the past, however, rendered unnecessary any declaration that his life would be devoted to the service of God. After singing the hymn on the 672nd page, the President, assisted by the Secretary and several ex-Presidents proceeded with the beautiful and impressive ordination service of our Discipline, ending with the imposition of hands, and the presentation of a copy of the Holy Scriptures. The ordination charge was then delivered. The President congratulated the young men upon the creditable manner in which they had passed their probation and final examination. Their fathers and brethren had set them apart solemnly to the work of the ministry, because they had full confidence in their piety, their gifts, and their devotion to the work. They had been required to give an account of their conversion, because only by a conversion could they be fitted for the Christian ministry, or render it possible that God could call them to this office. He charged them first of all to take care of their own souls, to study the Word of God upon their knees, both as the rule of their lives and as the fountain of knowledge from which they must ever drink if they were to be strong for their work. They were to be like Caleb—not like his associates—like Elijah and Daniel and Paul. They were to urge and lead their people on to perfection. Their language to their people must not be go forward, but come let us go up together. He urged them also to seek an assurance of the presence of Christ as necessary to their growth in grace, to their continued assurance of their call to the glorious work of the ministry, and to their success in the great work of saving souls. Of consequence also their preaching should be appropriate, should have also such familiarity not only with the word of God but also with the various systems of theology as should preserve their teaching from one-sidedness and error. Christ however must be the centre of our preaching, even as the sun is the centre of our system. Referred to the example of the apostles in this respect. They must preach in faith. The apostles believed that the gospel was the power of God unto salvation.

He gave them most excellent advice in reference to their daily deportment in their pastoral relations. Never to forget the dignity of their calling, and to so live that there should never rest upon the minds of any the shadow of a doubt as to their piety, their singleness of purpose—their honesty of motive and desire for the salvation of souls. He pointed them in eloquent and telling words to the glorious reward awaiting the earnest servant of God, and charged them to go forth in the name of their Master, and supported by his strength. The whole address was most excellent and impressive, being a charge indeed not only to the candidates, but to all. Singing and the benediction brought this impressive service to a close.

TUESDAY MORNING.
Conference opened as usual. A letter received from Mr. Withrow in reference to the Methodist Magazine was read to the Conference. A communication was read from Dr. Ryerson, Pres'dnt. Gen'l. Conf., requesting the Conference to direct a collection to be made in all the churches to defray the expenses of the Transfer Committee and delegates attending other Conferences. Directed to be laid on the table.

Attention of Conference was called to the fact that the committee on the Westville church had not met. It was directed to meet and report immediately. Some routine work was disposed of when the said committee reported that in their opinion some person in whose business ability

the Conference could put dependence should be appointed to visit the circuit and if he deemed it advisable secure upon the authority of Conference the necessary funds, and that the whole circumstances of the circuit should come under review at the next Conference. The Book Steward was appointed to perform that duty. The church statistics were then read and passed. Bro. Huestis called attention to the fact that there was some ambiguity in the term "Received by tickets," as given in the schedule, and recommended that superintendents of circuits be required to attend carefully to the disciplinary regulations in relation to the giving of certificates to members removing to other circuits. Passed.

A resolution was adopted, with some dissenting voices, however, requiring every minister removing from a circuit, to hold himself responsible for the pulpit supply for two Sabbaths after Conference. The Pastoral Address was read by Bro. Coffin, and after some verbal alterations most heartily adopted.

A resolution was also passed directing that Blank Books with printed order of business, tables, &c., should be prepared for District Meetings in order to relieve the District Secretaries of much tiresome labor. Resolved, also, that for the future, the ex-President shall preach the Conference sermon, and deliver the ordination charge. The committee appointed last Conference to confer with delegates from the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference concerning the balance of mission fund, and to secure if possible a settlement and a division made its report. This took the Conference, except the initiated, wholly by surprise. We give it entire as it seems necessary in order to a complete understanding of this complicated affair.

The committee appointed at the last Conference as a deputation to the Conference of N. B. and P. E. I. for the purpose of negotiation with that Conference, for the adjustment of Home Mission Fund balance belonging to the two Conferences, beg leave to report that they attended the Conference session in St. John, and having laid the object of their mission before that Conference, a committee of that Conference was appointed to co-operate with our deputation in the consideration of the subject. The joint committee had before them a statement of the investment of the fund, and ascertained that a division could be made of the investments, that would be satisfactory to both Conferences. The report of the joint committee was submitted to the Conference of N. B. and P. E. I., and adopted by nearly a unanimous vote. We regret to state that objections to the accomplishment of the views of the committee, and of the two Conferences on the matter, arose from the late Financial Agent of the Conferences who refused to give any satisfaction in regard to the fund, and who effectually prevented all arrangements for the division and transfer to the two Conferences.

(Continued on page four.)
THE N. B. & P. E. I. CONFERENCE.
From the St. Croix Courier.
The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada for 1876 met in the Methodist Church of this Town last Thursday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. D. D. Currie, President of the Conference, in the chair. After devotional exercises, the Conference organized by electing the following officers for the ensuing year.
President, Rev. Robert Duncan; Secretary, Rev. Howard Sprague; Journal Secretary, Rev. Joseph Hart; Assistant Secretaries, Rev. E. Wilson, C. W. Dutcher, and C. H. Paisley; Assistant Journal Secretary, Rev. B. W. Weddall.
The Rev. D. D. Currie retiring President, in a brief speech introduced his successor.
The President: elect, in taking the chair thanked the conference in a short and affectionate speech for their loving confidence in him and asked the prayers of the brethren and their hearty co-operation in conducting the business of the conference.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS.
Telegraphic greetings were received and replies made as follows:
The Montreal Conference sends fraternal greetings to the New Brunswick Conference and assurances of our prayerful interest in your work. Our Conference

rejoices in the Divine Presence amongst us.

Answer—
The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference cordially reciprocates the fraternal greeting of the Montreal Conference and sends hearty assurance of prayerful sympathy and love. We have entered happily on our confederal work and have indications of the Master's presence amongst us.

The following telegram was sent to the Nova Scotia Conference—

The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference sends cordial greetings to Nova Scotia Conference, and assurance of brotherly love and earnest prayer for Divine blessing. We have begun our Conference Session with tokens of God's presence and favor.

Reply—
The Nova Scotia Conference sends fraternal greeting. We rejoice in the presence of the Master and the advancement of the work of God among us and assure you of our prayerful interest in your work.

A motion to hold a love feast in the St. Stephen Methodist Church on the Sabbath afternoon following, instead of regular service was negatived.

COMMITTEES.

The following committees were struck.

1.—To prepare the Pastoral Address—Revs. H. P. Cowperthwaite, E. Evans and F. W. Harrison.

2.—On Memorials—Revs. H. Daniels, Joseph Sellar, W. W. Percival.

3.—On Statistical Returns—Revs. C. W. Dutcher, C. Comben, I. N. Parker.

4.—On Sabbath Schools—Revs. S. E. Ackman, E. Wilson, James Duke, C. Comben, W. W. Percival.

5.—On Stations, reported by Districts—The chairman and S. T. Teed, St. John; the chairman and I. N. Parker, Fredericton; the chairman and J. A. Duke, Miramichi; the chairman and Dr. Stewart, Sackville; the chairman and F. W. Harrison, St. Stephen; the chairman and H. P. Cowperthwaite, P. E. Island.

6.—Contingent Fund—Ministerial Members: Rev. H. Pickard, D.D., D. D. Currie, S. T. Teed, E. Evans, H. Wilson, J. S. Phinney. Lay Members: Messrs. R. Stevenson, W. Toal, King, H. Rudge, J. Yeazey, W. Robinson, S. C. Young.

7.—On Educational Meeting—The President, H. Sprague, J. A. Clarke, Jos. Hart, C. H. Paisley, Z. Chipman, J. B. Inch, J. Veazey, Chas. Lugin.

8.—On Missionary Meeting—The President, Secretary of Conference, Financial Secretaries of Districts, E. E. Lockhart, C. W. Wetmore, St. John; Hon. Judge Wilnot, C. H. B. Fisher, Fredericton; C. F. Bond, S. J. Anslow, Miramichi; J. R. Inch, C. A. Bowes, Sackville; Z. Chipman, J. Veazey, St. Stephen; Hon. W. G. Strong, Wm. Heard, P. E. Island.

9.—On the Spiritual and Financial State of the Work—The ex-President, Dr. Stewart, H. Daniels, J. S. Phinney, W. Tweedy, F. W. Harrison, H. McKeown, W. W. Colpits.

The report on the state of the church showed an increase for the year in the membership of 1183, with 558 on trial.

On Friday Prof. Inch was called to the platform and made an earnest appeal to the Conference for continued sympathy with the special department of the Educational work in which he is engaged.

The remainder of the day was chiefly taken up with the cases of probationers.

On Saturday the thanks of the Conference was unanimously passed to Rev. D. D. Currie, ex-President, for the earnest and efficient discharge of his various and important duties as President during the past year.

The minute of Fredericton district in reference to the death of Rev. Richard Weddall, the only one which has occurred in the conference during the year, was adopted as the minute of the Conference, and the letter writers of the Conference were directed to write a letter of condolence to Mr. Weddall's widow.

On Monday, the following special committee was appointed:

To consider the desirability of forming an Auxiliary Supernumerary Fund—Revs. Dr. Pickard, D. D. Currie, H. McKeown, C. H. Paisley, W. W. Percival, C. H. Dutcher, F. W. Harrison, I. N. Parker, T. J. Deinstadt, W. W. Colpits and the Journal Secretary.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

On Thursday evening the anniversary meeting of the Missionary Society was held in the vestry, and was largely attended. The President of Conference occupied the chair, who opened the meeting in a brief and practical speech. The yearly report was read by the Rev. Howard Sprague. It showed a falling off in the contributions of about \$1000. Mr. Sprague paid an eloquent tribute to the late Rev. Mr. McDougall, missionary in the North-

West Territory. Addresses suitable to the occasion were also delivered by Revs. E. Evans, W. W. Brewer, R. S. Ackman, and Dr. Stewart.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

An educational meeting, under the auspices of the Conference, was held in the church on Friday evening, Rev. H. Daniel in the chair. Speeches were made by the chairman, Revs. C. H. Paisley, Dr. Pickard, W. Dobson, and Professor Inch.

DEDICATION SERVICES.

On Sunday forenoon the new church was dedicated, Rev. Mr. Duncan, President of Conference, presiding. The service began by the singing of hymn 736.

"Great God, Thy watchful care we bless
Which guards these sacred courts in peace," &c

The Scriptures were read by Rev. H. Sprague, 2d Chronicles, 6th and 7th chapters, and Hebrews 10th chap. from the 19th to 26th verse, after which hymn 576 was sung.

"Great is the Lord our God" &c.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Duncan from Genesis xxviii, 20, 21, 22.

"And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, if God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come to my Father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give thee tenth unto thee."

The preacher made a rapid review of Jacob's career until the event in his life which gave occasion for his vow. This was followed by a recital of the different interpretations which had been given of the dream. The points then taken up were 1. The patriarch's recognition of the being and personality of God. 2. The absolute necessity of God's presence and blessing to the highest success in life. 3. A recognition of God's claim to a share of our temporal substance. The points were well elaborated both by argument and illustration.

Before the taking of the collection, Rev. Mr. Price stated that \$50 had been placed in his hands, to lay on the plate, by N. Marks, Esq., as the donation of the late Miss Emily Thompson towards the rebuilding of the church. The collection was then taken up which, besides this donation, amounted to over \$80.

The 152nd Psalm was then read by Rev. Messrs. Duncan and Currie, each reading alternate verses; after which Z. Chipman, Esq., stepped forward, and, in behalf of the Trustees, said:

"We present you this building, to be dedicated as a church for the worship and service of Almighty God."

The President then read the declaration, and prayer was offered by the Rev. J. Prince which concluded the ceremony of dedication. The doxology was then sung and the benediction pronounced by the Rev. J. Hart.

Service was held in the afternoon by Rev. H. McKeown, who preached from the text I Tim. 1 ch. 11th ver., "The glorious gospel of the blessed God." Service was also held in the evening, when Rev. D. D. Currie preached from Exodus 33 ch. 18th ver., "I beseech thee, show me thy glory."

ORDINATION.

The services on Monday evening were of a very interesting character—the ordination of four young men to the work of the ministry. The candidates Messrs. Hibbard R. Baker, A. B. Michl, G. Campbell, Jas. Crisp, and A. E. B. Shrewsbury, were introduced by Rev. H. Sprague as having served four years on probation. At the request of the President each related to the congregation the story of his conversion and experience. Prayer was then offered and the 1st lesson—Eph. 4th chap. read by Rev. Mr. Currie. The second lesson, in the 10th chap. of St. John, was read by Rev. H. Sprague. The President then read a solemn charge to the candidates and propounded certain questions touching their belief and purposes which were answered in the affirmative, and after prayer they were ordained according to apostolic practice by the laying on of hands. To each was delivered a Bible and given "authority to preach the word of God and to administer the Holy sacraments in the congregation." The charge was then delivered by the Rev. J. R. Narraway.

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