WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1881.

ONE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

The weeks that have elapsed since the Conference have given ample opportunitw for such mutual acquaintance bethem for united effort.

to guide their aim, will be in the direcinstanced as an example. Probably no made preparatory to this. Projects and as our own; and until the last twentyfinds joy. Sometimes lack of money power. There has been, in recent years, Heaven, as a dollar held close to the eye houses in any extensive systematic way. most successful in leading men and for the edification and spiritual enrich-To such noble emulation we urge our readers to devote themselves in their respective communities. They may then zest assured that "all things needful" to other success shall be given by a Father who knoweth their need.

Men engrossed by such aims do not put a discount upon plans, but they place a higher figure upon power. That power is obtained in prayer, -prayer, secret, ejaculatory, domestic, but in special measure, when public interests are concerned, through united petitions. The Saviour's promises teach us this, but the blessing which came down upon His early disciples as they in obedience to his command awaited the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the "upper room" at Jerusalem, affords a glorious illustration of the meaning and extent of His promises. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren." How wast the impulse which then the Church received her members can only know when gathered home to the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn. ALLEY.

through a disposition to make our prayer-meetings to too great an extent what they from the pulpit are often anmounced to be-social meetings? The use of the social meeting is clear-its praiseworthy purpose is mutual encouragement, and the offering of such testimony as shall impress any unconverted ones who may listen. But care should be taken not to substitute the social meeting for the prayer-meeting. Saint may give to saint sweet encouragement, in the Temple of Minerva; "No one as the lonely watchman may cheer his fellow, but he may not give him power. This comes from God alone; it is now, as ever, a gift from above.

Comparisons are often instituted be tween the old-fashioned prayer-meeting and its successor. It was "sing and pray, sing and pray," says some one of the former; often now the remark is serious apprehensions of a fatal termipassed concerning the social meeting in which song and testimony engross the principal part of the hour-" We had a eral impending dangers it seemed as if good meeting." With not the slightest | the distinguished patient were about to disposition to underrate the religious activities of the day, or to join in the poisoning. So alarming were the symptmorbid utterances of those whose sunshine seems all in the past, we dare question whether the convincing, converting power of some of those oldentime prayer-meetings was not greater in measure than in many more popular gatherings of a somewhat similar kind

at present.

If brethren are aiming at the highest success in Christian work let them care, and care intensely, for their prayermeetings. We do not counsel silence as to utterances on the part of the laity. Far from it. But we counsel earnest, importunate prayer for direct, immediate results, and then the brief space allotted to words of mutual encouragement will not be spent in introspection and relation of mere personal feeling, of which hearers soon grow weary, but in testimonies of the power of the Holy Chost in the salvation of men and the sanctification of believers, which shall prompt a doxology followed by fervent prayer for results a thousand fold greater than those yet achieved. A Church whose prayer-meeting talks are tales of work done for the Master, or of triumphs witnessed during the week, and whose prayers are for the constant scarce dare hope for recovery. "Still

vival, and it will soon cease to be merely a place of spiritual pleasure; it will be the Church's workshop.

ONE WEAK POINT.

Dr. T. H. Paine writes to the Western Advocate upon "Methodism-its tween the pastors and official members | changes." He says: "Some changes. of our circuits as is needed to prepare | noted indicate advantages which it would be unwise to overlook. The That united effort, if God be permitted | greater use of the religious press may be tion of saving men. All else will be Church has had this advantage so largely plans, however novel and taking in five years it has been most usefully the eye of the public, will all be tested availed of. Yet it may well be doubted by their likelihood to prove helps or whether of late the Church has mainhindrances to results in which Heaven | tained proper loyalty to this source of or desire of popularity on the part of our a noticeable neglect to circulate the church managers causes a trifle to eclipse | book issues of our great publishing may eclipse the sun, and loss proves the Formerly, as is well known, the itinerinevitable result. Would pastor and ant ministers were really colporteurs, people make the circuit of which they widely and regularly disseminating our "have control the "banner circuit" of book literature, travelling their circuits the Conference? Let them remember on horseback, with large saddlebags, that such in Heaven's sight will be that from whose capacious pockets they supcircuit or mission which in proportion | plied many a volume of sermons, or bioto its advantages and opportunities is graphy, or theology, or Church history, women and children to humble faith in, ment of the people. Failure to circuand consecration to, the Lamb of God late, both systematically and broadly, that taketh away the sin of the world. Methodist books and periodicals is to lose out of our economies an immense leverage for the advancement of the Church and uplifting of society."

> These remarks might have been written with equal truth respecting the Methodism of the Maritime Provinces. An examination of the contents of some old book-case, not yet transferred to the lumber-room bebecause of their dull bindings, would show the presence of periodicals and theological works in the study of which lay the secret of the sturdy piety and steady loyalty of some worthy men and women whose children now count little in the aggressive movements of the Church. Of ministers who trust only to an eloquent tongue in the service of the Church it may hereafter be said, 'Their works do follow them," but post mortem results will be both more abiding and more extensive in the case of those who speak to their people through the united agencies of voice and press.

We do not ask our ministers to become book peddlars or colporteurs they have not time for that—but the exhibition of a book or paper, and a candid recommendation from the pastor, to ether with the offer of aid in procuring it, has placed many a book where its by accident to a place which refused to presence has done more for the eternal benefit of a household than the pastor could ever have done from his pulpit. Does such work take time? Of course it does, but in a way which will pay gloriously. "Why do you spend so much time on that, inquired a friend of one of the old Greek sculptors, as he finished, with great care, the back of the head of a statue, designed for a niche will see." "The gods will see," solemnly replied the sculptor.

A NATION IN SUSPENSE.

The last week, to all American citizens, has been one of most painful suspense. Alarming symptoms justified nation of the President's illness at an early date. After having escaped sevsuccumb to the deadly effect of bloodoms that the nation at large appeared prepared to put on the garb of mourn-

ing. In Boston on Tuesday "the people lingered about the bulletin, reading the hopeless tidings, and passed on without speaking. There was no effusive emotion, but a prevailing sadness, as if the impending bereavement were personal to every one." On Saturday morning a leading New York journal devoted its first page, under the heading -" Only a ray of hope left," to all that could possibly be gleaned respecting the

position of the sufferer. From the first the recurrence of Saturday has been dreaded by the President and his attendants, as on that day unfavorable symptoms have generally been marked by greater intensity. To some extent this was the case last week. On Sunday a favorable change was observed by those near him, and the tidings made known throughout the Union caused a more cheerful tone of feeling to prevail. It was remarked in New York on Monday morning that the citizens as they went forth to business gave evident signs of greater cheerfulness. Yet it is certain that his physicians

saving others, will have a continued re- patches—is perhaps all that one can sav. If retained on earth it must be in answer to the thousands of prayers which each day are ascending heavenward from earnest and confident souls, who shudder at the idea of loss and yet strive to say "Thy will be done."

FROM BRITAIN

No II.

Glasgow, Aug. 6th 1881.

My last letter was despatched by the tug at Moville. Thence to Greenock was an enchanting voyage. Every American eve was transfixed by the ever-changing scenery of Ireland. In the early sunlight the variegated fieldscounted nine different shades of green as the queer patchwork of Irish agriculture flitted by, was a striking panorama. But ah! the Giant's Causeway! Imagine a series of Cape Blomidons. without a tree, scarred into a thousand shapes of gigantic faces and images, which the superstitions of other days transformed into actual existences, capable of leaping into life and stalking out upon the sea-tempests ;-imagine that these slumbering titanic faces are shaded by heavy overhanging vines for eyebrows; are draped with beards of furze and stinted bushes, and every other lineament shaded with delicate verdure down to the very tide-way-imagine all this and you have a faint idea of the Giant's Causeway and its vicinity. The Causeway itself was covered at high tide: but there were basaltic columns standing out in the face of the headlands here and there which gave some notion of the curious natural formation hidden by the Glorious old Ailsa Craig, as much like a wedding cake two miles in circumferance growing right up out of the sea as when I left it thirty years ago; and the growling, crabbed Mull of Cantire, never at rest a single moment since it several times in my boyhood made me pay tribute to Neptunethey were welcome enough with all their rugged grandeur. The Clyde is seen as we approach to be changed very much: its numerous steamers, most of them for tourists, and crowded with passengers: its superb domains and imposing structures, - castles, cottages, villas and what else—with mountains inlets, islands and seas, rivalling each other in a perfect landscape, made the termination of our voyage a succession

Once on the old Prince's Pier of Greenock, I struck with energy for the house where, as a boy, I lived from 1845 to 1848. Almost reproduced in the son walking by my side, I could have wished for his eyes and fancy through which to take in things as I saw them thirty and more years back. But alas were never again to be seen as then. Strange power of time to diminish the objects of childhood. There stood as if recalling a very distinct dream, only that the bridges were reduced to half their former size, houses were minified, the aged were all dead the youth all perfect strangers, and my self a fragment of long ago floated back acknowledge me. Like several other cities, and one or two continents, Greenock suffers by a westward tending tide of ambition. The east, where we once resided, has been chiefly given up to cheap tenements; the very garden where I sported is a begrimed waste. enclosed by foundries and sugar refineries; a ragged urchin stood by the back door shovelling coal for his half-clad mother who perhaps earned a scant fare by hard work. We hurried away one of us, through sheer sadness, ready to face again the Atlantic for America. Up through the park, whose trees were also ragged, and bereft of the rooks which once welcomed me with clamorous salutes, then down to the station and away for Glasgow. One craving of the heart fed, but only with moulded and rotten food! Thank God there are abodes and mansions which will be

of surprises.

brighter than the fancy. However, Glasgow makes amends Far outstripping anything I had imagined, this city has, like Boston, taken into its parental embraces so many outlying townships that it has quadrupled its proportions, almost within the memory of living men. One is fairly lost in astonishment at the massive and imposing buildings which range themselves in endless squares, streets and terraces. Only, everything is begrimed with the smoke of scores of furnace chimnies. There are many grand statues throughout the town of nature's noblemen, but they all sadly need to have their faces washed! At present they claim to have been not only Anglo-Saxons but Ethiopians, every man

Is it possible that these most Scottish bjects and characters were ever familiar to me before :-- these mountains of muscle and flesh, called drag horses these bare-headed, bare-footed women mingling with the more decently clad multitudes on the side-walks and all talking the most unimaginable Doric, delivering their rapid fire of broad-Scotch, as if each were giving out words for a wager? Had I ever sat down in a public dining-room where men came in and went out like ghosts, giving orders for dinner by a mere movement of the lips, never exchanging a sentence with a neighbor? Ever noticed a young lady, as this one this very morning, slowly, silently taking breakfast with deep study all the time of a book, which afterwards discovered to be "Smith's Wealth of Nations." Never that I remember; and yet it must have been the same thirty years ago. But really the change is very marked from the restaurants of our Western country, where a man has not time to sit down-till the anforcing of its members by the power lingering "—the phrase with which a folded to each anxious enquirer. Can it of the Holy Ghost, that they may aid in morning contemporary heads its des- be that there one's body and soul are or about \$155,000.

of interest to humanity, while here they have outlived such whims and fancies At all events it would have been a reief to hear one sharp nasal order-"Waiter, bring me the pickles

To remind us, however, that silence may not always be a virtue, right opposite my bed-room window is the Glasgow Bank; a name that has filled Scotland with shame and the Christian world with indignation. The building is a new structure-or, rather was-for it remains incomplete, as if Glasgow would not presume to touch it with the tips of its honorable fingers. But what a grand iniquity those Directors perpetrated, while they continued this show of great prosperity by going on with a magnificent building, by borrowing money to pay large dividends, and in secret falsiying the books of the concern till they sank millions of dollars worse than nothing! How many pangs of remorse were felt as these gentlemen knelt at their family altars, and arose to cheat wholesale, widows and orphans? One indeed was so exemplary that he refrained from taking a Monday morning newspaper, lest it might have been printed on the Sabbath. Strange contradictions there are in poor human nature.

Alluding to Banks there is no more striking feature of this great city's wealth than its monopolies of Bank power and property. Between them and the Railways there is a perpetual movement in the direction of buying up blocks of old buildings and tearing them down to make room for costly and elegant structures of immense size. Old John Street Wesleyan Church has fallen under this destiny, and is to be succeeded by a pretentious edifice. The old University. rom whose venerable gateway the police were often stormed and driven back by students during my residence here so long ago, has become a great Railway station; the new University, in the West End, having been rebuilt at a cost of a million sterling.

A Western reader will follow with some surprise the daily newspapers of Scotland. They are conducted with great editorial ability, but so sedate and entirely wanting in humour that you begin to wonder what has become of the human spice of imagination. Just now the Queen is expected in the near vicinity of Glasgow-Edinburgh; and to see how these Glasgow papers anticipate the event, one would imagine the editors are a combination of philosopher and flunkey. There is no other side of humanity that is ever presented to their fancy than that of the sober, sombre attitude.

We strike (D. V.) for the Lakes on Monday, whence I may write again. Yours &c A. W. NICOLSON.

P. S. I found that the British Conference proper had closed before we arrived, and the World's Convention of the Y. M. C. A. had already exhausted four of its seven days in session; hence it would have been useless to proceed to Liverpool and London at present, much to my disappointment.

BISHOP RYLE AND HIS CRITICS.

The Christian Union says:

"Dr. Ryle, the Bishop of Liverpool, did a very gracious and unexpected thing in his recent letter to the Wesleyan Conference. It is not often that an English Church dignitary speaks with such appreciation of the excellencies of another communion, or acknowledges so heartily the services which another religious body has rendered to the common cause. Such incidents, though not of great importance in themselves, are happy indications of the coming time when the Spirit of Christ, rather than any conformity to external rituals or creeds, will be regarded as the common test of Christianity.

The London Methodist makes these

"Though we totally dissent from the union of Church and State, we are convinced nothing is more likely to induce Methodists to support it than the Christian conduct of Bishop Ryle and many of his clergy. If you want friends show yourself friendly. If you want to make a man your enemy abuse him, assault him, persecute him in little things, in short, do as the clergy do in a thousand villages in the country; for they do there that which they would not dare to do in the towns. Bishop Ryle has already brought upon himself the wrath of some of the hornets. But he shakes them off manfully.

This communication from a Cheltenham clergyman, "troubled and perplexed" by the invitation of a number of Methodist ministers to luncheon at the Bishop's residence, where he again expressed his joy at the great work which Wesley and Methodism had accomplished, is, it may be supposed, a case in point:

Mv Lord.—As a clergyman who is troubled and perplexed at seeing your lordship extend your hospitality in so pointed a manner to Dissenting ministers, may I ask if it is indeed true that you hold them to be as truly priests and competent to consecrate the Eucharist as your lordship is ?

The Bishop replied as follows:

Sir,-I acknowledge receipt of your etter. Weslevan ministers are certainly not clergymen of the Church of Engand: but after the unkind treatment which John Wesley and his people received from the Church of England last century, and after the good work they have done, I shall never hesitate to treat them with respect.

The London Hospital Sunday Fund Collections this year reached £31,000, A CORRECTION.

We most readily make the correction called for in the following note from the Rev. Dr. Wood:

> Davenport, Ont. August 28th. 1881.

My DEAR BROTHER. -- In your paper of the 12th inst you say in reference to the grant made by the Wesleyan Missionary Society to that of Canada which was for five years, now expired, this was given "in aid of missions in Newfoundland and Bermuda:" This is a mistake, and likely to make painful impressions upon the minds of the estimable brethren who have labored on those two

Islands of widely dissimilar character. The grant was made in consideration of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada assuming the responsibility of relieving the Parent Society of all the Missions within the bounds of the Eastern British American months we have been discovering Conference, and was just as applicable to Digby, in Nova Scotia; the lumber camps of Miramichi, New Brunswick; or to Montague in Prince Edward Island, and all other Missions in these Provinces, as it was to the Islands of Newfoundland and Bermuda.

Your affectionate fellow labourer. ENOCH WOOD. Hon'y Secretary. Editor of WESLEYAN, Halifax.

Having spent eighteen years in New Brunswick I read your well-conducted paper with much interest.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Many congregations connected with the Methodist Church of Canada are embarrassed through lack of wealth, few are burdened through fortunate investments. One case of the latter kind is pointed out by the Rev. G. M. Grant, in a letter to the Toronto Globe, in which he writes of the church accommodation of the city of Winnipeg :-

"The Methodists have two congregations, one meeting at present in the Drill Shed, and the other in a neat having exposed and slightly wounded church near Point Douglas. The first congregation is embarrassed with its wealth. Nine or ten years ago the pastor, Rev. Dr. Young, received from the Hudson Bay Co. the gift of an acre of ground, to be selected from their reserve, as a site for the first Methodist Church. He selected his site so judiciously that it has now a frontage of 420 feet on Main Street. Last year the congregation converted their church into stores, and built at a trifling expense additional stores on their lot. These stores they rent for \$5,500 a year, and, as land sells now, they could get \$120,000 for their lot. Two years ago they bought another site on Notre Dame Street for \$4,000 which is now worth \$30,000. As they have not yet decided where to build, they worship in the drill shed-rather a comfortless prise at this fact the "Richmond Advoplace, doubtless, in the winter, but they feel that they are enduring hardships for a little while that they may build a grand metropolitan church worthy of the Chicago of the Northwest, and built without the customary ornament of a mortgage."

We observe with much satisfaction that the misunderstanding between the Baptist Foreign Missionary Board and their former missionaries- Rev. W. F. and Mrs Armstrong-is likely to be removed. Hitherto we have said nothing upon a subject which, from our acquaintance with the correspondence between the Wesleyan Missionary Society and its missionaries in the British American Provinces in former years, seemed not very difficult of solution. The inability of any Board to understand the precise circumstances under which missionaries labor in foreign lands; the friction caused by orders from the ends of the earth which must hamper an agent: the unintentional expression of personal feelings by a secretary in hastily written letters. and occasional delay in the remittance of necessary funds, brooded upon in the loneliness of a foreign residence and magnified into a token of general displeasure, may all combine to produce results which both Board and agent will find it difficult to remove. We hope that our Baptist brethren may now be able to prosecute their successful mission among the Telegoos without further "let or hindrance."

organization—the American and Foreign Bible Society-has engaged Dr. Conant, of Brooklyn, to make a complete revision of the Old Testament, for which he is to receive \$25,000 from the President of the Society-Capt. Ebenezer Morgan. The Watchman, (Baptist) treats the statement somewhat lightly, remarking: "Well, it is true that this Society is composed of Baptists—a few of them. It is composed principally of Capt. Morran, so far as its financial responsibility ir concerned. Dr. Conant is a scholar who is an honor to his denomination. He was mainly the author of the Bible Union Version of the New Testament. and prepared, also, revised versions of those who belong to homes in the Genesis, the Psalms, and the Books of neighborhood. An advance in numbers Job. Proverbs and Isaiah. But the is also reported from the Ladies' Acad-Baptists as a body, have not only not emy, but we are not prepared to give adopted either of these versions as 'their 'the precise attendance.

It has been announced that a Baptist

own,' but have failed to appreciate duly their very great merits. Neither them would ever supersede the common version for church use, but they are most valuable aid to its interpretation and correction."

Is this hint from the N. Y. Metho dist of any value to our clerical readers? If not needed as an aid to cure it may have value as a preventive : "It is some time since many of our pastors had said enough about Huxley, Tyndall, Spencer, Ingersoll, etc. Joseph Cook did them a bad service by persuading them that to refute a philosopher or answer fool was their pressing business. But if it was their business three years ago, we did not discover it; and now for some that the people are getting very, very tired of this kind of preaching. Come brethren, go back to plain gospel and righteous living. It is highly probable that you scarcely catch the point of the philosopher; it is perfectly certain that your hearers—the body of them-de not at all care about the philosopher's notions. They do care about Jesus of Nazareth; and that about him which overtops philosophy and reaches to the bottom of their hearts, they find the freshest and the sweetest of all things that your lips can utter."

Several cases have occured of late in England and elsewhere which lead one to ask whether the interpretation of the penalties of the law should be left to any one man. Few men are so there oughly balanced, so free from all those tendencies to moods which occasionally influence the wisest and best, as t render it quite safe to invest them with unrestricted power. Only a few weeks since an English judge sentenced a woman to seven years penal servitude for her infant child, in spite of a strong recommendation to mercy made by the jury. At the same sessions the same judge sentenced a man for killing his wife to eighteen months imprisonmen with hard labor! In reply to an inquiry made in the House of Commons the Secretary of State for the Home Department stated that he had no power to interfere in such cases. Such a fact is certainly to be regretted.

In one of the large Districts of Southern Conference the laymen voted against the division of the Conference. In reference to an expression of surcate" says : "The North Carolina Co ference is the largest body in the Connection, and vet these clear-headed lavmen were "against division." They had vested vast sums of their money in churches and colleges, and were wise enough to know that a large Conference furnishes a better assortment of preachers to choose from than a smaller one." Not a few of our readers will conclude that they were perfectly right.

The managers of our Sunday-schools throughout the Provinces are reminded that a good assortment of the excellent books published at the Wesleyan Conference Office, London, Eng., may always be found at our Book Room in this city. In addition to these, the publications of the Religious Tract Society, and of the principal publishers in Britain and America, can be supplied at the lowest possible rates. The halfprice books of the Tract Society may also be obtained at the Book Room. Catalogues, now in course of preparation, will be forwarded to any address on application to the Book Steward.

In Mr. Nicolson's interesting letter from Scotland reference is made to that gigantic act of fraud-the Glasgow Bank failure. The following statement will give an idea of its consequences: "The creditors of the Glasgow Bank have now received 90 per cent of their claims. Of 19817 shareholders only 269 remain. The others are ruined. Nearly 600 gave up all they had and began the world again. To the trustees of the relief fund, which exceeded £1,950, there were 883 applications for aid." How much of bitter sorrow and suffering is indexed in these statements the world will nevel

Our readers will learn with pleasure of the successful commencement of the term at our Institutions at Sackville. Dr. Stewart in a brief note says:-"We are opening all departments of our work most hopefully. Our Freshman class this year is larger than for some years past." Principal Paisley of the Male Academy reports between fifty and sixty pupils in attendance, besides

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