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CONFERENCE OF EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA.

THE PASTORAL ADDRESS.

Of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Eastern British America, to the Members of the Church under its care:

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

As the collective Pastorate, assembled in our Annual Conference, we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of addressing to you our very cordial and Christian salutations, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the Seven Spirits which are before His throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first-begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth."

The important business of our Session has been brought to a happy and satisfactory termination; and we gratefully acknowledge the spirit of unanimity and fraternal harmony which has characterized our deliberations, and the tokens of divine approval and benediction which have been evidently vouchsafed. The public services of the Sanctuary, and the several Anniversary Meetings have been pervaded with rich heavenly influences. If the enlightening and hallowing presence of the Head of the Church is its true glory, and a guarantee of continued establishment and prosperity, then have we cause to rejoice, for at no former period could the language of the venerated Wesley, "The best of all, is God is with us," be more appropriately adopted.

The pleasure and interest of our Conference Session has been heightened by the presence amongst us of the honored delegation from the Canadian Conference, the Reverend Dr. Punshon and Evans. These beloved servants of Christ have again assured us of the fraternal and deepening affection of the extensive Church which they so ably represent; and by their public ministrations of Divine truth our congregations, and their sagacious and valuable counsel in our Confederal deliberations, have evoked our gratitude to God for the gifts and graces so pre-eminently possessed by them, and have drawn together more closely than ever the cementing bonds of love, that will, we trust, result in the confederation, at no distant day, of the several Conferences and Bodies of the Methodist family in British North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores—of one consolidated, influential and aggressive Church, whose highest ambition shall be to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the length and breadth of the land. To accelerate the consummation of this most desirable epoch in our Church history, a committee has been appointed by our Conference to meet a similar one from the Canadian Conference during the ensuing autumn, to prepare a basis of Federal Union which shall be mutually acceptable.

On reviewing the year, it is cause for unfeigned thanksgiving to be enabled to report progress in the various departments of our Christian enterprise. Zion's borders have been enlarged; believers in Christ have been established in the faith of the Gospel, and angels have participated in our joy over repentant sinners, and precious souls rescued from spiritual darkness and death. But, whilst it becomes us gratefully to recognize and rejoice over even the least measure of success, we would with anxious solicitude enquire whether the amount of success should perfectly satisfy us? Is it proportionate to the year's toil? An increased number of agents has been employed to scatter abroad the seed of the Kingdom, and to seek in order to save the lost. Might not more signal victories have been achieved in the name of our exalted King, and greater inroads been made upon the territory of the usurper? Might not the clouds have poured forth richer and more copious showers to refresh God's heritage? Seek, dear brethren, by importunate and believing prayer, the bestowment, in larger measure, of the Holy Spirit's grace and power. Nothing will compensate for His withdrawal. Of what avail is the prestige of learning, of influence, or of past successes, if Him who is the Spirit of the past, we do not have? His wisdom is foolishness; His strength is weakness, and our most zealous labours ineffectual and fruitless. As the result of our Saviour's entrenchment far above all heavens, we are warranted in expecting the descent of the Spirit. This great gift of the Gospel dispensation is indispensable to make our Zion a peaceful and quiet habitation, and a dwelling-place of the Divine glory, and to cause the "wilderness and solitary places to be glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose."

The necessity of working while it is day has been impressively enforced by the removal from our midst by death, during the past year, of four ministers of the Conference. They have been summoned from the labours of earth to the endless rest of heaven. Two of those who have departed hence were venerable men, extensively known and much beloved. The names of John Snowball and John Cardy will long be fragrant to the affectionate hearts of those among whom they laboured in the Gospel, and whose servants they lived and died. As the Elijahs of the Church ascend triumphantly to the skies, may their mantle rest upon many Elias who shall emulate their self-denying zeal and devotion.

Four Brethren who have satisfactorily and honourably completed their probationary term, have been ordained and solemnly set apart to the full work of the ministry; and twenty-two young men of promise have been received as probationers for our work. Still the necessity exists for prayer to the Lord of the harvest, whose prerogative it is to thrust labourers into his vineyard, that many more young men of piety and gifts, may be impelled by His spirit to consecrate themselves to the work of preaching "the glorious gospel of the blessed God," so that every invading field, still unoccupied, may soon have the ministrations of the gospel ambassador, proclaiming reconciliation through faith in the blood of the Lamb.

It is exceedingly gratifying to refer to the increasing work of the Conference, as evidenced in the yearly augmentation of the funds of this most important Society. The objects contemplated as such must be approved by every Christian philanthropist, viz: To afford relief to newly formed Circuits in sparsely peopled, and spiritually destitute localities, and the establishment of new stations, as centres of evangelistic effort. The grand design of the Home Missionary Society will not be accomplished, until every settlement in the backwoods, and every cove and harbour around the extensive sea-coast embraced within the bounds of the Conference, shall be blessed with the evangel of peace.

While solicitously caring for the spiritual exigencies of our own land, and putting forth laudable efforts to evangelize the masses around us who are still without God and without hope, may the day never come when we shall feel less concern, or display less sympathy than hitherto, for the hundreds of millions of our redeemed fellow-men in heathendom whose appalling servitude, and woeful degradation, appeal for immediate help. These must always have strong scriptural claims upon our prayers and Christian beneficence. The charity of the gospel is to help men of every clime, whether black or white, Jew or Gentile. In proportion as you possess the mind of Christ, will be your love for precious souls, and your readiness to supply adequate means to enable our Church to do its full quota of the work of saving and subjugating a revolted world. While the agents of our Foreign Missionary Society are labouring amid the densest darkness of paganism, and attacking the very stronghold of error in the ancient capital of the world, preaching the gospel in Rome also, let the influence of your fervent prayers accompany them, and your enlarged liberality help to support them, and provide an increase of labourers in the vast field, which is the world.

We would affectionately exhort you, dear brethren, to cultivate with the utmost diligence personal godliness. Let the holiness of Christ, as exhibited in his life, and inculcated in the gospel, be the standard of excellence toward which you are constantly aspiring. The age in which we live is pre-eminently one of worldliness, scepticism, and practical atheism; and unrighteous watchfulness is indispensable, that your garments may be kept undefiled. Let it be apparent by your walking closely with God, your deadness to the world, and your increasing spirituality of mind, that you are followers of Him who through faith and patience are now inheriting the promises. To this end hold frequent communion with God in the retirement of the closet. We have not, because we ask not, through the atoning blood of the Son of God, the worship of Almighty God, approach with boldness the throne of grace; and thus mercy, and every new covenant blessing, shall be secured. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, that being furnished with the sword of the spirit, you may successfully resist every form of evil. Attend regularly and with growing delight the ordinances of religion. They will prove to you as wells of salvation. Not only frequent the courts of the Lord on the Sabbath, but if at all practicable whenever Divine Worship is celebrated; so shall your path be that of the just, shining brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. Need we remind you of the importance of exhibiting in the performance of the worship of Almighty God a reverent and devout demeanor? "Stand up and bless the glorious name of the Lord your God when you sing His praises. Bow down and kneel before the Lord your Maker in solemn prayer." Whenever opportunity offers commemorate our Saviour's death in the Holy Eucharist. The command, "Do this in remembrance of me," is as obligatory upon us who name the name of Christ, as it was upon the disciples to whom it was primarily addressed at the institution of the blessed Sacrament. Thus do we show forth the necessity of Christ's atonement, and our faith therein, until His coming again.

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We exhort you brethren to labour in your several spheres and according to your ability in the cause of the blessed Master, who loved and gave himself for you. Opportunities for usefulness are abundantly furnished in the Church with which you are identified. In the Sabbath school, you can usefully employ your talents by imparting religious instruction to the lambs of Christ's fold. Let the spiritual destitution of the outcasts and neglecters of salvation, induce you to attempt their rescue and moral elevation by circulating among them religious tracts. "He that converteth a sinner—one sinner—from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and hide a multitude of sins." While we counsel you to give up your sympathy with all the truly philanthropic movements of the day, we especially urge the observance of the holy Sabbath, the attendance upon the class-meeting, and the avoidance of every form of worldly conformity which would neutralize the power of vital godliness, and grieve the Holy Spirit of God. While you are discharging the active duties of life, you can in various and most efficient ways exemplify and recommend that religion which is emphatically, "The one thing needful." Those who have the responsibility of a family, will scarcely need to be reminded of their obligation to care for the spiritual interests of their households. The duty of training your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, should be regarded as of paramount importance. In the sacrament of baptism, dedicate your offspring to the Triune Deity; that they afterward you may look upon them, and they may regard themselves as belonging to Christ and His Church. Provide for the mental culture of those dependent upon you, by supplying them with suitable literature. Many of the issues from the press at the present time are highly pestiferous. Sectarian principles, and soul-destroying errors of every phase are so insidiously introduced, that the untrained and unsuspecting minds of youth are in danger of being perverted and corrupted. Other literary productions are frivolous and dissipating. They present false views of life; and when a taste for them is acquired the Bible, and other books of real value are neglected, or listlessly read. Our Book Room in Halifax is well furnished with carefully selected works, and we recommend your patronizing as largely as possible this Institution. "The Provincial Wesleyan," has earned for itself so wide and

favorable a reputation, that it is unnecessary to do more than express the hope that it may find its way and be welcomed into every Methodist family throughout the bounds of the Conference.

You will be gratified to know that the reports from our "Academic Institutions" at Sackville continue to be highly satisfactory, proving unmistakably that they are nobly accomplishing the design of their establishment. It is earnestly hoped that they will still receive those proofs of your confidence and appreciation that have been accorded in the past. It is of utmost importance that the Educational interests of our Church be efficiently sustained. Every year of our Connexional life give evidence of increasing zeal to secure for our youth a thorough education based on Christian principles! Such an equipment is of more value than silver or gold, and will qualify for positions of honor and usefulness.

We again commend to your favorable notice the "Educational Society" of the Conference. One of the objects contemplated by its formation, is to aid those young men who feel called by the Spirit to the work of the ministry, but who require further educational training to enable them to discharge its sacred functions, and to become able and useful ministers of the Lord Jesus. In this age, when the fundamental and most vital doctrines of our Holy Christianity are assailed by men of learning and genius, it is more imperative that those who are set for the defence of the Gospel be thoroughly furnished for their high vocation. We need say nothing more, to impress upon your minds the reasonable claims which this newly formed society has upon your Christian sympathy and beneficence.

In leaving the Conference to repair to our various spheres of holy toil, we desire to be endowed with spiritual power. Brethren pray for us. Your prayers, united with ours, and added to the intercessions of the Great High Priest before the heavenly altar, must prevail. Let us learn as we have never done, the omnipotent of effectual fervent prayer, and witness its effects—in the Church by the entire consecration of its members—and in large, yet unprecedented accessions to the Church of the saved from the world.

As our hands or bound or open ear, As Moses or Elijah pray, And, now, dear brethren, we commend to the grace of Him, who is able to keep you steadfast and unmovable, and to preserve you unto his heavenly Kingdom. When the world and its fleeting shadows would encroach when mammon would tempterily assert his claims, when Satan determinedly assails; when your steps are envious with peril—who may give the presence and help of Him who giveth power, to the faint—who said to the tempted apostle; "My grace is sufficient for thee," and who remaineth unchangeably the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever—our Lord Jesus be with your Spirit Amen!"

OUR DECEASED BRETHREN.

One of the most solemn and interesting sessions of the Conference is that in which the question is asked, "What ministers have died during the year?" and the names are read of the veterans who, worn and weary in the arduous toil of many years, and ripe for glory, have passed to their reward, and of youthful men who in the prime and vigor of life, flushed with hope and ambition, many triumphs over the enemies of Christ and truth, have, by the mysterious providence of God been suddenly called from the Master's toil to the Master's presence.

The first named was the Rev. THOMAS CARBY, who, several years ago, on account of rapidly failing health, became superannuated, settling in the city of St. John, N. B. He subsequently removed to Chicago, when, after much suffering, he exchanged mortality for life.

The President said that he was first acquainted with Bro. Carby on the St. John Circuit. He never was connected in the work with any one with whom he found a more pleasing association. He was a man who maintained habitually intercourse with God. His conversation was always edifying. Religion was his theme in, or out of the pulpit. His pulpit efforts were able, efficient, and attended with sacred union. As he advanced towards the close of his career the prospect of his future home became exceedingly bright.

Dr. Stewart said he was associated one year with him in St. John. Like Enoch he walked with God. Even then, shadows of his long continued affliction began to fall upon him. He was always patient. At times he seemed reserved and sad, yet peace ever beamed from his countenance. He was with him when he was not able to hold intercourse with his brethren, but enjoyed abiding communion with God. He felt that he had nothing to do but to live so long as the Master willed and then die in the arms of his Redeemer. His mind was clouded for a time, but consciousness returned at the close of life, and he triumphed gloriously.

The next mentioned was JOHN SNEOWBALL who was born Sept. 27th 1794, died Sept. 13th 1871.

Mr. McMurray said he had enjoyed his friendship and that he had prized it highly. He had ever felt that Bro. Snowball was a good man—a man of God.

Mr. England had been acquainted with him ever since his coming to the country. In Newfoundland they had been co-laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. He was especially noticeable for his interest in the work of God and his zeal for the salvation of souls.

Dr. DeWolf said that Bro. Snowball's name was associated with the memory of bygone days, and was not so fragrant on the Horton Circuit, where he labored with great acceptance and success. He had ever found him a Christian gentleman. Warmly attached to Methodism and ever anxious to advance the various interests of the cause. He endeavored to maintain continual intercourse with Heaven, and there seemed to glow within his heart at all times the sacred fire which burned in the heart of John Wesley. Often he had seen him at Sackville in his religious services when his countenance

would glow with living light, and his eyes moistened with tears at the name of Jesus. He was hospitable and social, but amid all the pleasures of life his mind ever turned to the one great subject—religion. He was a good man who dealt justly, loved mercy, and walked with his God.

Dr. Stewart could testify that his piety seemed to grow deeper and more fervent towards the close of life. He took a deep interest in the welfare of our educational institutions. The members will not soon forget his last address. His death was eminently peaceful. Of him it might truly be said—Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace.

Mr. Brette could fully endorse the sentiments which had just been expressed. He saw him the evening before his death. He had then, a consciousness that that was his last sickness, and expressed himself as ready to go. He remarked the meekness and maturity of his Christian character and often wished that his own life should be so prolonged. He had always found him able and willing to give good and reasonable advice, and had often availed himself of his paternal counsel. He believed that our venerable father was fully prepared to be translated from the trials of a suffering church beneath to the joys of the happy church above.

SAMUEL B. MARTIN, Born March 26th, 1834. Died Oct. 28th, 1871.

Mr. Currie might be allowed to say a few words about this brother. He was acquainted with him in 1855. He was converted at Greenwich (Mr. Currie) was stationed on that Circuit, developed rapidly in Christian character and soon became a prayer leader in the church. Mr. Currie became deeply attached to him as a young man of congenial sympathies and firm Christian character. He felt him to be a friend and valued him as such.

Mr. Ady had been much impressed with his zeal, devotedness, and piety. He could testify that Bro. Martin had been greatly blessed in his labours. His intercourse with this brother had always been of the most agreeable kind. He trusted to retain the friendship in eternity.

ROBERT E. CRANE, who entered the ministry in 1846 and after 25 years of faithful service in this blessed toil, was obliged to desert from the active work, and become a Supernumerary. He removed soon after the last Conference to this city, where, during the sitting of this Conference, an event towards which he had been looking with pleasurable desire, he entered his everlasting rest in the 54th year of his age.

Bro. Geo. O. Huestis said that he had been long acquainted with our now sainted brother Crane. They entered the ministry together and were ordained in this city in 1851. His intercourse with Bro. Crane had always been of the most delightful and hallowed character. He had frequent opportunities of Christian fellowship, and witnessing the eminent virtues which adorned his life. He had visited him frequently during his last illness, and found him ever peaceful and submissive to the divine will. On his last visit he found him calmly resting upon Christ and prepared to triumph over the final foe realizing that death was gain.

The hymn commencing— "Come let us join our friends above," who have obtained the prize." was then sung and several members of the Conference offered prayer. Obituaries of these brethren have been prepared and will be in the printed minutes.

ORDINATION SERVICE.

On Monday evening four young men, who had passed the usual probation, were set apart, by the imposition of hands, to their call to the ministry. As might have been expected, at an early hour a large audience gathered to witness the interesting ceremony.

At half past seven the President took the chair and called upon the Rev. Mr. Daniels who gave out the 744th hymn and then offered prayer.

The young brethren to be ordained were called upon the platform and introduced by the Secretary of Conference, Rev. Mr. Currie, in a few instructive and appropriate remarks. He dwelt particularly on the fact that we lay hands suddenly on no man. Our candidates are required not only to pass rigid examinations, but also to secure a probation of four years and to give evidence, by actual trial, that they are fitted for the work of the sacred ministry.

The President then, according to custom, called upon the candidates to give a statement of their Christian experience and of their call to the work in which they were about to engage.

GEORGE F. DAY said—From my earliest recollection I was the subject of gracious impressions. These were deepened through the efficient instructions of a devoted sabbath-school teacher. Well do I remember the emotions that swayed me, as tears welled up in my eyes from a heart hot, and deeply stirred whilst that teacher pressed home some important truth contained in the lesson. His interest in me was continued long after I went from under his care and he was ever ready to extend to me his counsel and sympathy. But it was not till I had arrived at the age of eighteen years that I was brought to feel that I was a lost sinner, out upon the broad plains of worldliness, wandering away from God. I was light, fippant and ambitious, without a mind stable enough to bring myself to contemplate anything of importance, much less the interest of my soul and of eternity. I was convicted under the preaching of the Rev. Mr. Naraway who was holding special services at Carleton. At the close of one of these services I went forward, bowed as a penitent at the foot of the cross, and there and then, found peace to my soul.

I cannot tell when, or how the impression was first made upon my mind that it was my duty to enter the ministry, but such an impression was made, and it settled into a deep conviction. There were many obstacles in the way of my entering upon this work and, for a time, I shrank from duty for there was nothing in the calling, viewed from a

worldly standpoint, which could recommend it to my acceptance.

I made this a matter of prayer, and, at last, my way was, in some measure, opened up, so that I might obtain, to some extent, the external qualifications necessary for this great work, for I knew that it required culture, as well as grace and talent. I received my first appointment as an agent of good, believing it to be God's providential way, not a path of my own choosing.

In reviewing my probation, I feel that there is much to mourn over in that I have not been more useful in His vineyard. Yet I am encouraged, from the small success that has attended me to go forward, feeling assured that it is with me to strengthen and support. May I never grow weary in well doing but plough the furrow to the end, not discouraged by its crookedness hitherto. It is not by might nor by power, nor by natural grace or by culture, not by the adornments of learning nor by the embellishments of rhetoric abounding in flowers and well turned periods that souls are led to Christ, but by the spirit of God. My prayers is that I may be instrumental in doing some good, and of being the vehicle of comfort to some poor weary and heavy laden soul.

ANDREW F. WILSON said—Having been blessed with parents who feared God and sought the salvation of their children, I was in my very early life, brought to feel the need of mercy. My parents being members of the Methodist Society, I was taken to the Wesleyan church, where I was permitted to hear the Gospel preached by men whose preaching was with demonstration of the Spirit and power. Hence, whilst listening to the preaching of the word, I was deeply impressed with need of salvation, and was led to call upon God, in secret, for mercy. I did not, however, surrender myself entirely to God. The fear of man had vented me from openly and fully following the Saviour. When about thirteen years of age, however, whilst attending a series of religious services, held by Rev. Mr. Hennigar, then Superintendent of the circuit, I was enabled to come out from the world and give my heart fully to God, and then, soon found peace in believing.

I had not long been endeavoring to pursue the narrow way before I was brought deeply to feel that my heart was not wholly saved from indwelling sin. Encouraged by the promise, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean, from all filthiness and from all unrighteousness," I endeavored to obey the apostle's exhortation, by seeking to cleanse myself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perceiving holiness in the fear of the Lord, and, in striving through the assistance of divine grace to surrender my all to God. In pleading in earnest prayer for His Spirit, and in resting upon the promise by faith, He has from time to time given me to partake of richer and fuller baptisms of the spirit of holiness, removing the fear of death, and enabling me to look forward with joy to rest with Him in heaven. Having thus been made partaker of God's mercy, I felt an earnest desire to be instrumental to others. I was convinced that it was my duty to do all in my power, relying upon Divine grace for assistance to bring others to the narrow way. I therefore, determined to endure the toils of the world, to take up my cross and endeavor to labor for God in seeking the salvation of souls. Whilst employed in private, and occasionally also in public, in using my humble ability in the service of God, I was requested, at the close of one of the Conferences by the Chairman of the P. E. Island District to travel on a vacant circuit. The request was complied with. During that year it pleased God to pour out His Spirit, and revive his people, and save souls. The following year I was received on probation, but after travelling one year I was laid aside on account of ill health.

For several years after this I was excluded from the regular work, but I still continued to labor for God as I was able and had encouraging evidence of the Divine approval. Four years ago, somewhat unexpectedly, I was again taken on probation, since which time, I have been enabled without any interruption to labor in this calling. I still would give for Christ in seeking the salvation of souls.

"Happy, if with my latest breath, I say but good, His name, Preach him to all, and cry in death, Behold, he led the Lamb!"

EDWIN MILLER said—Early in life I felt the strings of God's Spirit, but it was not till I was fourteen years of age that I was made partaker of the Holy Spirit. During the revival of religion in Charlottetown, under the Rev. J. McMurray, I was led to seek the prayers of the church, and through the exercise of faith in Christ, love, joy and peace filled my soul. I was convinced that it was my duty to do something for the interests of Christ's Kingdom. I began to employ myself by distributing tracts, teaching in the Sabbath school, and leading weekly meetings for prayer. I felt my soul filled with the love of God. The impression was so strong, that I was glad to spend my whole life in prayer, and to be spent in before a congregation would make me tremble. The conviction that it was my duty to become a preacher was kept within my heart until I feared that my soul would be lost if I rebelled any longer. But it was not till my friends stood round, what they thought, my death bed, though God, in his mercy saw otherwise, that I resolved, if raised up, no longer to attend to myself. When my purpose to attend to the work of God was known, my friends and I feared that he would never make a man of me. I was led to walk closely with God, and I never wished to be a preacher, but I was convinced that it was my duty to do something for the interests of Christ's Kingdom. I began to employ myself by distributing tracts, teaching in the Sabbath school, and leading weekly meetings for prayer. I felt my soul filled with the love of God. The impression was so strong, that I was glad to spend my whole life in prayer, and to be spent in before a congregation would make me tremble. The conviction that it was my duty to become a preacher was kept within my heart until I feared that my soul would be lost if I rebelled any longer. 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