

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1872.

THE SACKVILLE INSTITUTIONS.

The Sackville Institutions have reached an important crisis in their history. After the close of the present Academic year, the grants to those Institutions from the New Brunswick Treasury will cease.

It is useless to enquire whether the policy in this case adopted is founded in justice or inspired by wisdom. It is much more to the purpose to consider whether it is likely to prove irrevocable, and to enquire, what is now to be done? That is a question of momentous importance to Eastern British American Methodism.

The primary consideration of this question will devolve upon the Sackville Board of Trustees. Its ultimate decision will lie with the Conference of the Eastern British American Methodist Church.

It is not our business to anticipate on this subject the conclusions and suggestions of the Board or the judgment of the Conference. But it is evident that every minister and every intelligent member of our Church has a deep interest in this matter, and most earnestly desire that the emergency which has arisen may be dealt with in the most energetic and judicious manner.

There can we presume be but one opinion entertained among us as to the main question involved, which is, are the Sackville Institutions to live or die? On that question there must be absolute unanimity of sentiment among instructed broad-thinking Methodists within our Conference bounds.

That sentiment would find expression in the assertion that the Sackville Institutions must at any sacrifice necessary be maintained in all their departments in ever increasing vigour. There are, we believe, but few persons who have given more patient thought to this subject than we have, and it is our immovable conviction that the fortunes of the Methodist Church of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, are to a material extent interwoven with those of the Methodist Schools of learning located at Sackville. Were it otherwise the touching traditions associated with the origin and development of the Mount Allison Academies and College would render the crippling and still more the extinction of those Institutions a most mournful spectacle for true-hearted Methodists in the Maritime Provinces to witness.

But endeared as those noble seminaries of learning are to our intelligent people by the recollection of the princely munificence in which they had their origin and by which they were fostered, their existence is felt to be indispensably necessary to our healthful progress as a Church. It seems to us that it is one of the most pressing duties of the Methodism of the Lower Provinces to place those Institutions upon a thoroughly stable financial basis, that their powers for good may be developed to the utmost limit of their capacity.

It is much to be lamented that the blow about to fall on the Institutions is coming so suddenly. Were its delivery postponed for twelve months longer, its effect could be much more neutralized by an energetic and skilful preparation than now seems possible. But as indicated before, no profit will come merely from the indulgence of vain regrets. Prompt, vigorous, united and persevering action is the requirement of the situation.

It is to be hoped that the gentlemen upon whom the initial responsibility rests to commence the action requisite will be found equal to the demands made upon them. Meanwhile it is desirable that the best heads and the most liberal hearts lay and clerical in the connexion may be occupied for some time to come with the consideration of this matter in its manifold bearings.

We observe from time to time in American Methodist journals sundry Editorial lucubrations respecting the progress of Republicanism in England and regarding the imperfections and probable fate of Monarchy in the Parent Land. The writers of these articles seem only slightly acquainted with the subjects on which they descend, and by no means plentifully endowed with that philosophical faculty which would fit them to discourse upon those subjects discriminately and impartially. Republicanism on paper may be made to wear a symmetrical and scientific aspect. Republicanism in practice, faintly administered among a highly intelligent and law-abiding people, may moderately well accomplish all the just objects of secular government. So much may be cheerfully and gratefully admitted. It may also be conceded that great evils may exist and flourish under every sort of monarchy to which human beings are made subject. But it may with truth be contended that the range of personal liberty enjoyed by the subject in Britain is everywhere as great as that granted to the citizen in the United States, that in the former country, the influence of intelligent public opinion upon the policy of the supreme government is greater than in the latter country, that legislation, the administration of justice, and the conduct of the civil service of the country is vastly more pure in Britain than in the United States, that while in England in the administration of affairs the general tendency is toward economy and simplicity, in the United States the tendency is toward extravagance, that if the British House of Lords may need in process of time some reconstruction, the time is fast approaching when the constitution of the United States Senate, in which little Delaware, with one-eighth of a million of people wields as much power as New York with nearly four millions and a half, will be considered an anachronism, and that, in fact, it is the merest nonsense for anybody to be predicting that a political millennium will glide into Britain in the wake of the Repu-

lic while the Monarchy slides out to make room for it.

The two countries may learn from each other through all coming years, and promote each other to good works for the common benefit. Good men on both sides should rejoice when in either country laws are repealed, when proved grievances are redressed, when gaugered political or social excrescences are pruned off and when solid advance is made along the highway of civilization. But our worthy brethren across the border should not find it difficult to believe that their kinsmen and ours who abide in the old homestead across the great sea need a great many things more than a Republic of any pattern whatever.

J. R. N.

METHODISM AT THE ANTIPODES.

Methodism at the Antipodes seems a long way off. The subject may therefore be considered somewhat far-fetched, yet a glance at it may not be deemed uninteresting.

There exists in the Southern hemisphere a Methodist Conference, affiliated, like that of Eastern British America, to the British Methodist Conference. This Southern Conference has charge of the Wesleyan Methodism located in Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and Polynesia. Its President is yearly appointed on its own nomination by the British Conference. The statistics of this body for 1871 show that in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, it had charge of a membership of 27,585 and on trial, 1,836

and in its mission field a membership of 32,064 on trial, 5,639

and of Sunday School scholars, 127,818 In three years it was able to exhibit a gain in Ministers of 55

Churches, 332 Members, 8,997 Sunday Schools, 290 S. S. Teachers, 2,451

There are five towns—Melbourne in Victoria, Sydney in New South Wales, Adelaide in South Australia, and Launceston and Hobart Town in Tasmania—in which in succession this Conference is accustomed to assemble. Its eighteenth session was held in Melbourne in January last, and was attended by about one hundred ministers. It received fifteen probationers into full connexion, and retained on probation fifty-three, besides receiving a considerable number on trial, the most noteworthy among whom was a distinguished Chinese convert whose education in China had occupied seventeen years, and whose preaching capacity and theological attainments were reported on most favourably by Mr. Cox, the Wesleyan Missionary at Hankow in China, whose presence at the Melbourne Conference seemed to afford it great pleasure.

There were connected with this Australian Conference in 1871 no less than 355 ministers and assistant missionaries, not one of whom died during the year. One would be apt to think from this circumstance that hard work agrees well with good men in that southern world.

Glancing over the reported proceedings of this Conference in Committee and otherwise, we are not surprised that its session lasted over eighteen days. For irrespective of the routine matters with which we are all familiar, its attention was occupied with many questions of more or less importance, mooted at the time or commended to its notice by various District Meetings. Its Children's and Educational Funds, were not it was thought, in as flourishing a condition as was desirable, though the allowance per capita was fifty dollars from the former and over sixty from the latter. Young ministers at that Conference do not pay up their subscriptions to the Superannuation Fund as they ought, it appears, for it was resolved by the Superannuation Fund Committee that the Conference be recommended not to appoint young men upon their being received into full connexion to married preacher's circuits unless they have paid their subscriptions to this fund. One brother of peculiar views, endeavored in vain to get the Conference to pledge itself to allow any minister having labored say 27 years to retire whether sick or well on the Superannuation Fund.

The Conference made a strong delivery on the Liquor Traffic question, pronouncing in favour of a Permissive Act allowing rate-payers to control the issue of Liquor Licences. The Conference also denounced the Polynesian Labour Traffic system, which is only a slightly disguised form of slavery, and passed a resolution expressive of its sympathy with the Episcopalian Missionary Society that mourns the loss of one of its devoted agents—the lamented Bishop Patteson.

The propriety of making the first Conference Session always an open one was recognized.

The decision of a Local Preacher's meeting on matters within its jurisdiction was, in answer to a question referred to the Conference, declared to be final.

Legislation ordering the public recognition of persons entering into full connexion with the Church was declined, because of the alleged practical difficulties standing in the way.

The introduction of Lay Representation in Conference had been recommended by three districts, but the consideration of the subject was postponed to that more convenient season whereat more light on the matter would be forthcoming from England, Ireland and America.

The necessity believed to exist for the establishment of an Institution for the Higher Education of young ladies was pressed upon the attention of Conference, but was relegated to the College Committee for fuller consideration, to be reported on hereafter.

But by far the most important subject of a special character on which Conference took action was that of the establishment of a General Conference, with Subordinate Annual Conferences. This Subordinate

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