

The Wesleyan

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ing. Here the forces of Gravitation,
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ago, of recommending anew our favorite
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ing biography of a very remarkable
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the mind to this day as our historic
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religious standpoint will always find
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pend on the science of Astronomy. No
student is excusable, with the means at
our disposal these days, who remains
ignorant of the laws and general out-
line of the heavenly bodies. These are
pretty books withal and decidedly

LITERARY.

We have received the *Fifty-third An-
nual Report of the Missionary Society of
the Methodist Church of Canada.* The
Secretaries have condensed a marvelous
amount of information into this issue.
The book is a study. Any attempt at
reviewing the Report would but binder
the object of preparing it, at great
expense, for general readers. Besides,
we have already anticipated, at differ-
ent times, the purport of this synopsis
of Missionary operations for the year
1876-77. A summary at the close,
however, is worthy of re-publication.

GENERAL RECAPITULATION.

INDIAN MISSIONS—Missions to the Indians in
British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Hudson's Bay
Territory, and the Provinces of Ontario and Que-
bec. Missions, 4; missionaries, 32, and 7 assist-
ants; members, 2,790.

JAPAN—Missions to Japan. Missions, 3; mis-
sionaries, 4; members, 122.

TO THE GERMANS—Missions to the Germans.
Missions, 6; missionaries, 3; members, 266.

TO THE FRENCH OF QUEBEC—Missions to the
French. Missions, 8; missionaries, 7; mem-
bers, 217.

MISSIONARY DISTRICTS—Missions to the set-
tlers and Half-breeds in British Columbia, Red
River, and Algoma Districts. Missions, 24; mis-
sionaries, 24; members, 1,068.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS—Toronto Conference—
Missions, 64; missionaries, 71; members, 6,973.
London Conference. Missions, 33; missionaries,
62; members, 6,880. Montreal Conference. Mis-
sions, 79; missionaries, 80; members, 6,731. Nova
Scotia Conference. Missions, 57; missionaries,
61; members, 5,288. New Brunswick and P. E.
Island Conference. Missions, 49; missionaries,
51; members, 3,881. Newfoundland Conference.
Missions, 30; missionaries, 34; members, 5,534.
Total: Missions, 416; missionaries, 496; mem-
bers, 38,709.

There are 31 Schools and 31 Teachers; 21 Inter-
preters, and Ministers on Circuit supplying
small bands of Indians—making a paid agency in
the Missionary Department of the Methodist
Church of Canada, of 493.

The November number of the *Can-
adian Methodist Magazine* we have also
received. It has several illustrations—
faithful ones, as far as we can judge—
of the Bermuda Islands, and some ex-
cellent articles by Dr. Fowler, Rev. D.
Savage, the editor, and others. It is a
good number.

The *Acadia Athenaeum* is out for the
winter issue. It well represents the
Wolfville educational institutions, is
well printed on good paper, and well
stored with original articles of no little
merit.

LETTER FROM MONTREAL.

DEAR MR EDITOR.—An observing
stranger need not be long in this city be-
fore he would discover that its inhabitants
are composed of two peoples. They have
a two-fold distinction—language and re-
ligion. This is a great infelicity, yet, in-
evitable, as the country when belonging
to France, and of course Catholic, was
conquered by Britain which is Prot-estant,
and speaks English. It is to be deplored
that a century after the conquest the peo-
ple here should still be so far from being
one. The recent development of Roman-
ism has aggravated the differences which
previously existed. The Canadian French
and other Catholics are drawing farther
off from the English and the Protestants.
The best men of both parties acknowledge
and regret this. Efforts are sometimes
made in the direction of union and co-
operation to promote the best interests of
all. On one side these are rudely checked
by the Ultramontanes, and the other
party being a small minority, have but little
hope of cordial and successful working
with those whose first aim always, and
everywhere is, to secure the ascendancy
of the full blown Roman Catholicism of
the day. This object is blazoned forth
in some of their street processions by
flaunting on their banners the words "our
laws, our language, our religion," mean-
ing, the Province of Quebec for the French
speaking Catholics. It was therefore a
necessity for the English speaking minor-
ity that they should have schools entirely
free from the control of the Catholic cler-
gy. This has been accomplished.
A PROTESTANT BOARD OF SCHOOL COM-
MISSIONERS

has been instituted by law. They are
prosecuting their official labors with cred-
it to themselves, and high advantage to
the people for whom they act. The reve-
nue of this Board last year amounted to

more than \$160,000, derived from taxes,
Government grants and fees. The expendi-
ture was nearly as much. The Board
has seventeen schools. The teachers in
most of them have been well trained. The
new school houses are ornaments to the
city and are as well adapted to the
purposes of education as money, material,
experience and science can make them.
They are consequently full of pupils. Yet
often the tale is told, that ample as the
accommodation appears space enough is
not yet provided for all children of school-
going age. These schools are of priceless
value to the families that send their ju-
veniles to them. The public examinations
excite much interest. The Board is doing
its patriotic work with as little friction
perhaps, as any other in the city.

THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL
is one of the most popular and useful
foundations in the country. Its history
dates from about the year 1822. Its ben-
efits are available to persons of both sexes,
all nationalities, and all religions. The
Governors are mostly Protestants. The
income of the Hospital is about \$40,000,
less than seven thousand dollars of this
sum is received from the Government.
The finances have been injuriously affect-
ed by the late hard times, the income last
year falling short of the expenditure by
more than ten thousand dollars. This is an
embarrassing fact, and is suggestive of
economy—and of course investigation to dis-
cover if possible what items of expense
could be dispensed with, with the least
sacrifice of efficiency. Some have spoken
of discharging the trained nurses. These
ladies have been so undoubted, and so
large a benefit that considerable dissatis-
faction has been expressed at the propos-
al. Indeed every one experienced in
sickness and the treatment of the diseas-
ed, knows that good nursing is only next
in value to skillful doctoring. So it is to
be hoped that these professional nurses
will be retained. The value of the Hos-
pital to the city appears from the number
of its patients. The occupants of the wards
last year were 1769, seven hundred and
forty of these were Roman Catholics. The
number of "out door patients" was 78,
788, nearly fifteen thousand of whom were
of that profession. It is well known that
the Roman Catholics, notwithstanding their
great preponderance in the census, sub-
scribe very sparingly to the Hospital funds.
This has been a discouragement and a grievance
to many of its supporters. Some of
them think that the Catholics should be
cared for only to the extent for which the
sums derived from their co-religionists
would provide for. This sentiment is not
likely to become general. The manage-
ment and the principles of this noble
charity will not be changed in the
direction of denominationalism. It is better so
long as it is possible to imitate, however
remotely, the good Father of us all who
sends his rain and pours his sunshine
alike on Protestant and Catholic, on the
Jew and Gentile.

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
or at least some of its admirers are la-
boring to prepare the way for the formation
of a congregation of its adherents in
Montreal. It has been said that a bishop
of that church will visit the city, and
preach in the hall of the Natural History
Society in the course of the present
month. By the time of his arrival, those
who have in charge to take subscriptions,
hope to be able to report that the amount
promised would justify the sending of a
minister to reside and preach in the city.
It was admitted at one of the preliminary
meetings, that there was less need for the
services of the Reformed Episcopal church
here, than in many other places. This
witness is true. The Anglican clergy of
Montreal are laborious and devoted. They
may not all belong to the same school of
theology. Some may be of the high, and
others of the low church parties. Several
of them are very pains-taking in the tem-
perance movement. The number of
churches is now so great that they are
not filled even on Sabbath days whilst the
cost of supporting them decently and ef-
ficiently is painfully felt by some of the
people. One may fear too that the ever
increasing sects in this so largely a Catho-
lic city may tend to weaken the force of
the Protestant testimony to the errors
and corruptions of Romanism, and furnish
to its ever wakeful priests an impressive
argument against the Protestant cause.

It would be sad indeed if any thing be-
done that will be divisive, enfeebling, and
dissenting to scriptural and spiritual
piety and worship.

ALL SAINTS DAY
is a close holiday with the Catholics, as
the Canadians say it is a "jour d'obli-
gation." Solemn services are held in the
churches. Business being suspended,
the people in multitudes resort to their
sanctuaries. The parish church in Mon-
treal was attended by thousands on the
first of the month. The nave, the middle
gallery—the upper gallery—the orchestra
were all crowded. It was a grand specta-
cle. Two incidents gave special impor-
tance to the occasion. One was that Dr.
Conroy the Ablegate of the Pope in his
official character presided over the grand
ceremonial. In his address to the vast
assembly the Ablegate referred to pasto-
rals previously issued concerning candi-
dates for a seat in parliament advising
the people for whom they should or should
not vote. Those instructions have wrought
great harm, and if not modified would
probably have led to sanguinary conflicts.
He endeavored therefore to give them a
less bigoted and personal application,
saying—in substance that their bishops
did not desire to designate individuals,
or political parties, and then happily, but
unusually endeavored to correct a mistake
that some had fallen into with regard to
a document published some time ago.

PROCESSION IN THE CHURCH

from the chancel to the front entrance by
the south aisle, and back by the north
aisle. A host of youths wearing white
caps, two a-breast was followed by lay
gentlemen bearing on their shoulders a
sort of bier, richly adorned. On this
was placed a costly chair, perhaps one
ought to say—throne—on which was seat-
ed a life size image of St. Peter. His
right hand was raised and extended as if
blessing the worshippers. The image was
followed by a large number of surpliced
priests' who also walked two and two. The
saying of the liturgy accompanied by the
organ proceeded without interruption.
Those who officiated in the chancel wore
vestments of the costliest materials, while
numerous lights were burning before
and above them. Perfect decorum
prevailed throughout the church. A ser-
mon was preached, to which the audience
gave reverent attention. But what a con-
trast such bodily exercise presents to the
plain, forcible, spiritual services which
the apostle Peter himself conducted? Sweet
is the memory of departed saints—the
dead in Christ of all ages, and of all
lands. These it is well to remember, and
to glorify God for His grace given to
them, and to follow them as they followed
Christ. But surely it is far from well to
uphold such highly ceremonial worship
as obscures the King of saints from the
mind's eye of his people, to interpose be-
tween them and Him an impenetrable
veil. The scripturally taught lover of
Jesus in such case might well say as
Mary at His sepulchre, "they have taken
away the Lord—and we know not where
they have laid him." Perish soon and
forever the rites which are opposed to the
divine oracle, "Christ is all and in all."

THE EARTHQUAKE

at a little before two o'clock in the morn-
ing of the 4th inst., which shook every
house in Montreal, was felt throughout a
large region. It was observed in the Ot-
tawa valley—and for a long distance
southward of the St. Lawrence. No very
serious damage is reported. Some night
telegraphic operators who were resting on
benches were thrown to the floor. Wind-
ows shook noisily, and house bells spoke.
A harsh voiced parrot fell from its perch
to the bottom of its large cage. Had the
house been overthrown poor poll could
hardly have been longer or longer in her
piercing exclamations. In the last twenty-
two years about a dozen earthquakes have
caused this city to tremble. The most
important of these occurred in April,
1864. But none of them is to be compar-
ed with that which took place in 1863.
The consternation was then very great.
One woman was so frightened that her
body trembled for an hour. Persons went
to the churches as if to die before
the altar. A priest surrounded by people
who expected to be engulfed, received
from them more than eight hundred con-
fessions. Would that there were an awak-

ening of men's conscience—the fallow
ground of hard hearts broken up—so that
that they may be led to confess their
transgressions to the Lord, and become
happy and safe in the assurance that He
has forgiven their iniquity.

THE REV. G. B. STEPHENSON,
the active and successful superintendent
of the children's home, having its head
quarters in London, England, and a
Branch in Hamilton Ontario, has this
week passed through Montreal on route
for Quebec. Accompanied by Mrs.
Stephenson he will there embark for Liv-
erpool. He assisted the Rev. L. Gault,
at the Lord's Supper on Sunday last, at
the afternoon school—and preached to a large con-
gregation in the evening. He discoursed
from John i. 46, "Come and see," uttered
to Nathaniel by Philip when exulting in
his new found joy, arising from his having
seen the Man that is more precious than
the golden wedge of Ophir—Jesus of Naz-
areth the Son of Joseph.

THE WINTER

is again near. How striking is the change
in Canada from the tropical heat of July
to the polar cold of January, also in the
appearance of the field, the forest and the
river at those extremes of the seasons.
The winter is often the harvest time to the
churches. So may it be in the coming
months. Many have been sowing the
seed of the Kingdom. Many fields are
white already to harvest. May they yield
abundantly fruit unto eternal life, that
both he that soweth and he that reapeth
may rejoice together.

Yours truly,
E. B.
Nov. 9, 1877.

CHANNEL, NEWFOUNDLAND.

The anniversary services in connection
with the Methodist Sabbath school, Chan-
nel, were conducted in the church on Sun-
day, October 28th ult. In the morning,
the sermon was preached by the Rev. G.
P. St.ury, resident minister from Malachi
iii 16-17. In the evening a children's
service was held, at which several of San-
key's hymns were sung, and appropriate
recitations given by the scholars. Mr.
Knight ably presided at the organ. Fortu-
nately the day was fine, congregations
good, and the collections considerably in
advance of last year. The report showed
an increase of scholars and teachers, and
it was with devout gratitude the minister
remarked that death had not visited the
school during the year, but that all were
alive to celebrate their anniversary.

A systematic course of lessons is being
arranged, and a teacher's preparation
class established, which it is hoped will
prove advantageous to the school. A few
weeks ago the annual treat was given to
the children in the Orange Lodge, kindly
lent for the occasion. Unfortunately the
day was wet, which prevented out door
amusements, but this did not seem in any
way to mar the enjoyment. Swings were
erected, and a variety of games introduced
which kept the young folks well employed.
A sumptuous tea was provided (the tables
groaning beneath the weight of good
things), and was partaken of, by schol-
ars, teachers, parents and friends to the
number of about 100. After the games
were resumed, hymns and pieces sung, then
followed a distribution of cakes and
sweets. Cheers were given for the min-
ister, superintendent, teachers, friends,
and Her Majesty the Queen. The doc-
tology was then sung, the benediction pro-
nounced and the children dispersed to
their respective homes, well pleased with
their day's enjoyment. No pains were
spared to make this treat a happy and
successful one, and great praise is due to
the teachers and friends for their liberality
and manifested interest.

G. P. S.

A METHODIST CLOCK.—The congrega-
tion at the Methodist Church yesterday
morning was surprised to hear the tick-
ing of a clock, and soon discovered that a
large and handsome clock had been, dur-
ing the preceding week, placed in the
church. The position of the clock, in
front of the gallery, will be a timely re-
minder to the pastor not to make his ser-
mons too brief. This valuable addition to
the furniture of the church was the gift
of Mr. D. R. McElmon, of this town.—
Moncton Times.