

THE WESLEYAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1882.

CLOSE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

On Wednesday of last week the business sessions of the General Conference of 1882 came to a conclusion. The hymn, "Jesus, accept the praise," was sung, Dr. Potts offered prayer, the President pronounced the benediction, and the eighty members then present separated, to meet again only if the interests of Methodist union, approaching a fortunate consummation, shall require the President again to summon them and their fellow delegates at some period earlier than 1886.

Thinning ranks, short speeches and cries of "vote, vote," for several days foreshadowed the hour of adjournment. The man who could keep his feet for an address of any length either possessed unusual ability or—something less desirable. Such haste, when topics of general importance await consideration, is to be deprecated. Unwise conservatism and undue haste tend in the same direction. The former fears to move forward; the latter has no time for the consideration of necessary or unnecessary onward steps. At Hamilton, near the close of the session, such haste, with its five-minute speeches, seemed unavoidable. Many delegates had left for good and sufficient reasons, others could no longer remain, and those who were under no special pressure for time felt that they were not wearing out their welcome, only because of largeness of heart on the part of their hosts. May we suggest—if perchance, some one will remember our words—that the remedy for such haste lies rather within the range of prevention than of cure. If—if—some delegates would only say less at earlier sessions, and learn that a motion could be voted upon with safety in the absence of any remarks by themselves, there would be no need of the proverbial "slaughter of the innocents," if indeed, under any witty designation such subjects as transfers, the length of the pastoral term, the test of membership and others equally important, can with any justice be included.

As to what may be noted under the head of unfinished business opinions may differ. Each delegate who may feel disappointed that some peculiar view on some special subject has not prevailed will place that subject in the unfinished list. Only one question, however, can be assigned to that list by common consent—that one the very important subject of Methodist union. Our readers have before them this week the report of the Committee appointed to consider it. A further synopsis of the debates will inform them of the action of the General Conference in relation to the recommendations of that Committee. The principle has been affirmed; the whole question can only be intelligently discussed when the several committees at the meeting in November shall have agreed upon a scheme to be submitted to the Quarterly meetings and Annual Conferences. Our future action on union will be closely watched. The Protestants of the Dominion, generally, are watching it with interest. Romanists, who make so much out of a small capital when they point to our divisions, are not less interested.

The winner of the Gilchrist Scholarship, Mr. W. M. Tweedie, of Mount Allison College, left Sackville on Friday night last for Rimouki, where he embarked for Liverpool. Our best wishes for his future success follow him. On the evening of his departure the students of Mount Allison tendered him a banquet in the lecture room of the college, at which Josiah Wood, Esq., M.P., a member of the first graduating class, presided. Instrumental music, songs and speeches followed the gathering at the richly-spread table. The speakers on the occasion, beside Mr. Tweedie, were Revs. Drs. Pickard and Stewart, Professors Weldon, Smith and Goodwin, and Principals Kennedy, Paisley and others. President Inch was absent. He passed Mr. Tweedie that night, while returning from the General Conference at Hamilton. The friends and students of Mount Allison are justly proud of the success of one of her

graduates. The opportunity of competition formerly enjoyed by her students through her connection with the University of Halifax has only been closed, it is now seen, in order to enable them to win distinction in a wider sphere. Others at Mount Allison are treading closely in the steps of her successful sons. They may be depended upon to maintain her character in the future. Generous donors to our college will feel meanwhile that their gifts are not in vain, and the parents of bright, studious lads will learn the high value of their own denominational college.

Why should not the world hear of worthy deeds as well as of unjust acts, even though the former are only what should be expected of honest men? Included in the nobler list is an instance brought before the General Conference by the Hon. J. W. Sifton, of Manitoba, in connection with the bequests of the late Rev. Edward Morrow. That minister, obliged to retire from active ministerial labor, went to the North West, where he succeeded in doing more than making a living. The Church still lay near his heart, and as death approached he made a will in which he left \$1,000 for the formation of libraries in the Sabbath-schools of the North West; \$5,000 for the Superannuated Preachers' Fund; \$10,000 to be appropriated to Church Extension in the North West; and 90 acres of land, which have since brought \$12,000, for the establishment of a college in Manitoba. In one point the good man had failed. His house had not been set in order with such promptness as is advisable, and through some informality the sums thus generously given to the Church might have been appropriated by his heirs—his two brothers. These, however, were worthy of the deceased, and as soon as they learned of the legal defect took steps to affirm the provisions of the will. The action of the Messrs. Morrow in thus waiving their rights called forth a hearty expression of appreciation from the assembled delegates.

We are glad to learn that other sums, quite large, are being offered for the extension of our work in the North West.

The death of the venerable Dr. Pusey, of Oxford, recalls attention everywhere to the Tractarian movement, of which some thirty or forty years ago he was the leader, and to which the world gave his name. Of his sincerity the world has been thoroughly convinced, even in quarters where no doubt has been entertained of the erroneous character of his opinions. It was his to point men in a direction in which he neither led nor followed. As a contemporary remarks: "When this movement began, about 1830, it had the double character of a pietistic revival, which found expression in Keble's hymns, and also of an intellectual awakening in theology. The tractarians proved to their own satisfaction that whoever accepted the Thirty-nine Articles could accept Romanism. Newman followed his logic into Rome; Pusey remained in the Church of England to be the head of the High Church party. His vigorous brain gave the party a strong position, and it held it until Pusey became old and feeble. Of the other part of the movement, the pietistic, Canon Liddon, whom many consider 'the greatest of living preachers,' is one of the few strong representatives. He combines remarkable High Churchism with the evangelical doctrine and spirit. But the movement is slowing down rapidly now, and the next Oxford 'departure' may be expected in a few years."

The first annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada was held at Hamilton on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Mrs. Dr. Burns, President of the Society, presided and read an address of welcome, to which Mrs. S. F. Huestis, of this city, made a happy reply, though unexpectedly called upon. The branch societies now number about twenty, with a membership exceeding 800. Nearly \$3000 have already been expended in aiding the Japan and French-Canadian Missions and in giving help to the McDougall Orphanage and the Crosby Home for Girls. At an early day the Society is likely to have representatives of its own in the mission field. Dr. Burns presided at the public meeting held in the parlor of the Centenary Church on Tuesday evening. Pleasing addresses on missionary

topics were given by Rev. W. W. Ross, Rev. Dr. Cochrane—formerly of Japan, Rev. L. N. Beaudry, of our French Mission in Montreal, and Rev. D. Hill, an English missionary to China, whither he now is returning to continue a missionary life of eighteen years. The private and public meetings of the Women's Missionary Society will no doubt give a new impulse to this important department of our work.

Correspondents must exercise a little patience while Conference reports are being given. We hope, by abridging these as much as possible, to conclude their publication next week.

The Provincial Normal School will open on Wednesday, November 1st. New pupils will not be received after Nov. 8th. Regulations can be obtained on application to the Principal.

See Plan of Sackville District Missionary Meetings on eighth page.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

(Continued from first page.)

ELEVENTH DAY—MORNING SESSION. Hamilton, Sept. 19.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

reported the following committees to prepare fraternal addresses to the various Conferences:

Australian Conference—Revs. T. W. Smith and Prof. Shaw.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada—Revs. H. F. Bland, and C. Jost.

Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.—Dr. Withrow and Rev. W. Galbraith.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South—Revs. Dr. Burns and Dr. Pope.

The following were nominated as a committee on Thanksgiving Day; Mr. J. Macdonald, Hon. Sen. Ferrier, Hon. J. J. Rogerson, Judge Jones, and Mr. W. Strong, Revs. W. McDonagh, H. S. Matthews, G. McRitchie, E. A. Stafford.

Rev. Dr. Withrow read the following report of the committee appointed to prepare a memorial notice of Rev. Dr. Ryerson:—

IN MEMORIAM—THE REV. EGERTON RYERSON, D.D., LL.D.,

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in his Divine wisdom, to call from a life of faithful service in the Church on earth to his everlasting reward in heaven, our reverend and honored father in the Gospel, the Reverend Egerton Ryerson, D.D., LL.D., the first President of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, this General Conference desires to place upon record its deep feeling of gratitude to God for his gift to the Methodist Church and to the people of this land for so many years of a man so richly endowed with native gifts and so largely adorned with the Christian graces, and its profound sense of the great loss the Church and country have sustained in his death.

As the devoted Christian missionary and pastor; as the faithful defender of the rights and liberties of the people of this land against ecclesiastical assumptions and civil disabilities; as the editor for so many years of the *Christian Guardian*, the official organ of our Church, and as the first religious paper in Canada; as the first President of the University of Victoria College, the oldest institution of higher learning of Canadian Methodism; as the trusted representative of his Church in the religious councils of Methodism in the Old World and the New; as the Superintendent for over thirty years of the educational system of his native Province—a system which he almost created, and which he developed to a state of efficiency unsurpassed by that of any country in the world; as the wise counsellor in the union movement which led to the organization of the Methodist Church of Canada; and as its President, the administrator of its highest office during the first quadrennium of its history; Dr. Ryerson has an imperishable claim upon the love and gratitude, especially of his own Church, and also of the entire community. We magnify the grace of God as manifested in him; we revere his memory as that of a true patriot and devoted Christian; we rejoice in his labors for the glory of God and the welfare of man; and we deeply sympathize with his bereaved family and pray that the consolations of God may more and more abound in their souls to their lives end.

Rev. Mr. Duncan presented the financial report of the committee appointed by the three Eastern Conferences to manage the Superannuated Fund, of which the following is a summary:—

The working of the Fund during the past quadrennium has continued to be satisfactory in all save one respect. The current income has fully sufficed to meet the constitutional claims upon it each year until the last when a deduction of two per cent. had to be made from the annuity of each regular claimant. If the income from the circuits had continued to yield the average per member which it did in 1873-4 or even during the years preceding the quadrennium, not only would there have been no need of such reduction, but there would have been a very considerable surplus for addition to the capital stock, as there had

been in previous years. The aggregate amount of annual claims upon the Fund has increased more than 100 per cent. during the last eight years: namely, from \$4654 in 1874 to \$9473 in 1882. The total amount of income for 1881 and 1882 was \$9790, of which \$1556 came from circuits; \$2203 from ministers; \$5150 from interest on investments; and \$700 from the missionary society. The capital stock at the present day is \$8000. The total receipts of the Fund during the twenty-five years ending July 1st, 1882, was \$169,248, and the total of disbursements during the same period, was \$166,002. Rev. Dr. Pickard and Dr. Inch were elected Treasurers. The Conferences concerned in this Fund are the Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island Conferences. The report was adopted.

The Rev. John Cassidy presented the amended constitution of the Superannuated Fund, as previously prepared and assented to by the Eastern Conferences, for endorsement by this Conference. It was accordingly confirmed.

The Rev. Dr. Hunter read the report of the Committee on Book and Publishing Interests. It was then taken up and considered *seriatim*.

The first clause was as follows:—

Your Committee have examined the report of the Eastern and Western sections of the Book Committee and recommended them to the General Conference for adoption.—Adopted.

Clause two reads:—

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the Revised Wesleyan Catechism for use in all our Sabbath-schools and throughout the Church, with Scripture proofs selected from the Authorized Version.

Several amendments were proposed, and a lengthy debate ensued over the respective merits of the Revised and Authorized Versions. But the clause of the report was finally adopted without alteration.

Bishop McTear, of the M. E. Church, South, being about to leave for home, desired to take leave of the Conference and was accordingly introduced by the President. The Bishop expressed himself as being delighted with his visit, and cordially invited any of the ministers crossing the border to do as Abraham did of old, be "still going towards the South." The Conference then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

BOOK AND PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

The committee's report was taken up. "Memorials from London Conference and Chatham District requesting that the *Christian Guardian* be changed to the form and size of the *New York Christian Advocate*." The committee recommend that no change be made in the present form of the paper.—Adopted.

In reference to a recommendation from the eastern department of the book room in favour of a hymn-tune book. They recommend this to the favourable consideration of the general Conference, and that a small committee of competent men from Toronto be appointed to act in concert with the eastern committee, in order that the production be made acceptable to the whole church.

The adoption of the clause was moved by Rev. Dr. Hunter.

Rev. James Gray said if the publication of such a hymn-tune book would do away with the flood of little publications that flooded the circuits, he would favour it.

Rev. Dr. Williams explained that under General Conference direction a tune-book had been prepared, and the first edition sold out.

Rev. S. F. Huestis asked that there be no prejudice to the proposal, because it came from the eastern department.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF METHODISM.

Rev. Dr. Williams moved "That whereas the General Conference of 1878, by special resolution requested the Rev. Geo. H. Cornish, of the London Conference, to publish as soon as practicable his 'Cyclopedia of Methodism in Canada,' and whereas said request has been complied with, thus giving to the Methodist Church of Canada a complete record of all its past history, and furnishing such a synopsis of its men and work as is possessed by no other church in the world, this Conference hereby expresses its appreciation of the value of said 'Cyclopedia of Methodism in Canada,' and recommends it to the hearty support of the Church generally."

Rev. W. Briggs, as Book Steward for the Western department, was re-elected by acclamation.

Rev. Dr. Dewar was re-elected as editor of the *Christian Guardian*.

Rev. Dr. Withrow was re-elected editor of the *Magazine*.

Rev. S. F. Huestis was re-elected Eastern Book Steward, and Rev. T. W. Smith editor of the *Wesleyan*, both by acclamation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE FUND.

The Treasurer of the General Conference Fund, the Rev. Dr. Rose, read the report. The balance in hand was \$2542, and the expenses of the General Conference would be about \$7000. It was referred to the Committee on the General Conference Fund. The Conference then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The report of the Committee on Education was as follows:—

The Committee recommended that the charter of Victoria University be so amended as to provide that the heads of affiliated institutions, and

the professors of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, shall be members of the Senate.

Dr. Inch, President, read the report of the Mt. Allison Wesleyan College and Academy, from which it appeared that the number of graduates had increased by five. During the quadrennial the endowment fund had been increased by \$50,000. The destruction of the male academy by fire necessitated the construction of a new building which was now approaching completion.

The report was adopted as read. The Committee recommended the following as the Board of Governors:—

Rev. Dr. McMurray, Dr. Pickard, Dr. Pope, Dr. Stewart, A. W. Nicolson, J. Lathern, W. H. Heartz, D. D. Currie, and Messrs. Josiah Wood, A. M., E. B. Allison, Jairus Hart, A. A. Stockton, A. M., LL. B., Joseph Prichard, J. D. Dickson, J. R. Inch, LL. D., D. Allison, LL. D.

After the reading of the report Dr. Inch paid a fitting compliment to the memory of Rev. Joseph Hart, a late governor who died in 1880.

The Treasurer's report showed that the debt in 1878 was \$7,500, which was increased to \$53,511 at the end of this financial year. The total endowment fund is \$100,000.

The Treasurer's report was adopted. Rev. J. Lathern seconded the adoption of the report and gave a synopsis of the work of education at Mount Allison.

Rev. Dr. Nelles expressed his great satisfaction with the admirable report read by Dr. Inch. He was sorry he could not sing or he would have struck up "Come on my partners in distress." A voice, "Try it." Dr. Nelles said if he did so they would be more distressed afterwards. He contended that the denominational colleges, both in Canada and the United States, showed improvement both in attendance and resources relatively with the secular universities. He stated that he thought the east were in a better state of finance than the western institution, though Mr. John Macdonald had promised to give \$10,000 towards raising the endowment to \$100,000.

The report was adopted. Rev. Dr. Burns, President of the Wesleyan Ladies' College read the report. The Dr. pointed with pride to the fact that upward of 1,200 ladies had received their education there, many of whom were now filling positions of honor in Canada as well as in other lands. The number of graduates last year was 167. The institution owes not a dollar. The report recommended the reappointment of Rev. Dr. Burns as principal and governor of the institution, and Revs. Dr. Nelles, Dr. Rose, Dr. Ryckman and Dr. Sutherland, as clerical directors. Adopted.

The report of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, was read by Prof. W. J. Shaw. The report recommended the four for the directors of the institution.

The report was adopted as read and the Conference adjourned.

TWELFTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SEPT. 20.

Rev. Dr. McMurray moved the reconsideration of the vote appointing a committee on the Hymn tune book. This motion prevailed.

Rev. Dr. Hunter moved that the Book Committees of the Eastern and Western sections at their first joint meeting during this General Conference shall select a small committee of competent men to act in concert with the men from the East in the matter of the proposed Hymn tune book. This was accepted without discussion.

Rev. S. Bond moved the resolutions of which he had previously given notice. They are found in the first day's proceedings. A lengthy and exciting debate ensued, during which a resolution was moved by Dr. Hunter referring the whole matter to a committee, which was carried. It is as follows:—That, inasmuch as no motion or resolution is before this Conference which is likely to harmonize the various views represented, resolved that a committee be appointed with instructions to prepare a resolution relating to the question at issue which shall be printed and circulated amongst the members of the Conference as early a date as possible.

On motion by the Rev. J. Wakefield, it is resolved that the President appoint the committee, to consist of seven members, called for by Rev. S. J. Hunter's resolution. The Conference then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The President nominated the following as the Committee on the Rev. Mr. Bond's motion: Revs. Dr. Hunter, J. H. Robinson, J. Lathern, E. A. Stafford, Messrs. Warring Kennedy, C. E. Ayre, and Dr. Allison. The names were accepted without debate.

The Committee on the Course of Study reported minor alterations and additions to the course of study for the various years. The main discussion on the second year's course was caused by the introduction of Dr. Pope's theology instead of Watson's.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

The Committee on Thanksgiving reported that, inasmuch as it had become the usage of the Dominion Government to appoint a day of thanksgiving, be it resolved, that the day appointed by the Government be accepted.

The Conference then adjourned.

THIRTEENTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

SEPT. 21st.

REPORT OF UNION COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed by the General Conference to consider the

question of a union with the several branches of Methodism in this Dominion, viz., the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the Bible Christian Church, beg to submit the following report:—Your Committee, in accordance with instructions received from the General Conference, has met the several Committees appointed by the other Churches above named, with the view to ascertain if such a general union is practicable, and what modification, if any, of the existing economy of the various churches would be regarded as essential in any proposed basis of union. We found the brethren composing the above named Committee ready to co-operate cordially in the endeavor to reach a common understanding in reference to terms of union, and by a hearty unanimous vote the discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada was accepted as a basis of negotiations. At the same time it was felt that no union could be lasting or beneficial which could not carry with it the general consent of the membership of the churches represented, and that to secure this some mutual concessions would be necessary. In regard to doctrines, general rules, usages, and constitution of the lower courts, no difference of opinion was expressed. In regard to the General Conference there were two points in which certain concessions were desirable, viz., General Superintendency and lay representation in the annual Conferences. The representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church express themselves as attaching great importance to the principles of Superintendency, but not in the particular form in which it has hitherto existed among them. They were of opinion that the church which they represented would yield the life appointments and separate ordination, but would stand firmly by the principle of an Itinerant Superintendency in some form, leaving the powers and functions of the office an open question. The representatives of the Primitive Methodist and the Bible Christian Churches while not advocating superintendency *per se*, expressed themselves as willing to accept the principle in order to promote a general union, provided that the other bodies would concede the principles of lay representation in the annual Conference in some form. After free conversation the following resolutions were adopted by the United Committee: 1st. That the principle of lay representation in all our Church courts be so recognized as to admit laymen into one annual Conference to some extent, and in some form. 2nd. That paragraph 86, page 39, of the Discipline referring to the election by the General Conference of its President be so amended as to provide for an Itinerant General Superintendency in some form. In reference to the former resolution, it was distinctly understood that the lay representation was not to affect the composition of the Stationing Committee or the examination of ministerial character.

Your Committee having carefully considered the whole subject, in view of the desirability of a united Methodism in Canada, would venture earnestly to recommend the General Conference to adopt the above resolutions. It further recommends that the General Conference direct the appointment of a mixed Committee consisting of twenty-seven persons, viz., Seven by the Toronto Conference, seven by the London Conference, five by the Montreal Conference, three by the Nova Scotia Conference, New Brunswick Conference, and the Newfoundland Conference to meet the Committee of the other bodies in the city of Toronto on the last Tuesday in November. The church in which the meeting shall be held and hour of meeting shall be arranged by the Toronto Conference. It further recommends that the members of the above named Committee be elected by the representatives of the several annual Conferences here present, and that said committee meet for organization before the rising of the General Conference. It still further recommends that should the Joint Committee agree as to the details of a basis of union, the plan of union agreed upon shall be submitted to the Quarterly Boards for approval or otherwise at the next February quarterly meeting.

It is further recommended that the superintendency of circuits be required to report immediately to the Secretary of the General Conference the vote of the quarterly meetings, and should it be found that two-thirds of the quarterly meetings voting thereon have declared in favor of the plan of union proposed by the Joint Committee, the President of the General Conference shall convene the General Conference in order to give effect to the proposed union; said meeting of the General Conference to be held subsequently to the meeting of the Annual Conference. It is further recommended that when the General Conference adjourn it adjourn to meet at the call of the chair. All of which is respectfully submitted. W. Williams, Chairman, W. C. Brown, Secretary.

The report was received and ordered to be printed, and its consideration was made the first order of the day for to-morrow.

SABBATH-SCHOOL INTERESTS.

Rev. Dr. Withrow read the report of the Committee on Sabbath-school work. With the memorial asking for the appointment of a general agent to travel and take charge of the Sabbath-schools, organize new schools, edit the Sunday-school publications, etc., they could not concur.

Cor... the r... syno... there... the li... 1,733... from... 122.8... three... been... study... culat... school... open... Schoo... crease... 560 in... The... onto... W. H... J. B... Rev... well... Chish... Dr. P... Sena... Nova... Coffin... P. E... Hon... Conf... Hon... tions... the ca... chum... ted to... add... lish m... in a... Churc... cate i... princ... into... practi... of ple... embro... liquo... books... missio... then... super... to sen... at the... partic... missio... their... the T... bath... years... points... ferred... Mont... New... land... includ... last C... \$3,992... term... Of the... curred... al Con... Conf... Lond... \$421... The ferenc... Rev... tor of... School... Carrie... The... Child... C. He... tion o... we re... ence... the I... on an... tain a... Aft... Suth... judgm... view... is in... chanc... Child... is in... There... be ap... all av... the p... Fund... same... elect... Re... to the... Nello... which... Ham... at T... since... Depu... him... dery... Dr. C... come... Dr... spee... eloqu... late... hear... er off... Re... conv... to R... ton... ria U... was... Th... engr... D... a st... succ... arch... com... To... the a... rec... rec... 18