## WESLEYAN THE

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in these Provinces

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1876.

A MOST SUGGESTIVE BOOK.

Who has read Sydney Smith's essay on Methodism and not wondered at the pious-or political-horror with which he predicts the universal dissemination of this heretical sect? It, or its doctrines, had found its way into the army, the navy, the legislature, the church, everywhere, in fact. And the British nation was to rise in self-defence for the suppression of a monster faith which threatened to over-run the world! The nation did not rise: Methodism fulfilled the prophecy of the witty essayist.

Dr. De Puy of the N.Y. "Advocate" has kindly sent us a copy of the "Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The volume does not, of course, embrace the M. E. Church South, notwithstanding its immense proportions.

We have reports, however, of eighty Conferences, with a total membership of nearly one and half millions. If these members hold to the general congregations the same proportions as in our country, there must be, including the South, five millions of Methodists-or one-eighth of the population-in the Republic yonder. Think of it ! The preachers-numbering nearly eleven thousand-are reported in 35 pageseach four columns-of close type. Among these we recognize familiar names, indicating how much the American ministry, like the population in general, owes its strength to foreign blood and brains. The reader cannot fail to have his eye arrested by repetitions of certain words in those columns -thus: there are 41 Adams. 34 Bakers, 113 Browns, and of Smiths'well, we are obliged to breathe "just here," as our neighbours would say. There are actually four columns of Si miths', numbering altogether 178. There is a feat of patience for you-to cou ut them we mean. It appears to hav e been exhausting work to find Chri stian names for this army-in fact, the prophetic, apostolic, traditionary, classi cal and mythical records seem to have been all laid under contribution for the purpose. Yet it is charming to think t hat all this mass of men-like the beau taful type which symbolize and proclaim them-are marshalled under a code of ( betrinal, standard agreement, which ma bes them a unit in Christ Jesus, and a power on this continent. There are a few conclusions-curious and importa nt-on the surface of these "Minutes." The increase of membership last year was over 17,000, notwithstanding the church lost nearly 20.000 by deat bs. Our Baptist friends might take sc une consolation from the fact that the reword of infant baptisms -to the numb er of 19,591-shows a decrease of 693. but for the other fact that there has a iso been a decrease in the number of a dult baptisms to the extent of 5,197. The number of adult baptisms is in exce we of infant baptisms by 8,000 and upwar ds. If we were in-

WE write this paragraph in Windcircumstances very similar-surrounded by broken-hearted penitents and rejoicing converts. The work of God here at present is general over the community, and gives indications of being both searching and substantial. Mr. Huestis, the pastor, carries the Master's presence with him. The converts of his ministry are numerous in many fields of successful toil. He is sustained at present by ministers of our own church of rare, true spirit, and by hosts of joyous Christians. Two things we note from this stand-point of observation :---

1. How thoroughly true penitence accomplishes its work? It revolutionizes everything. It breaks up old foundations-scatters the elements of self into fragments. We see old faces and forms here; the men and women appear the same, but they do not walk, or work, or speak as formerly. 2. How faithful is God to the pro-

mises of prayer! We heard prayers on the lips of the dying here years ago, The sufferers were laid away to rest, with cries for their children's salvation mingling with suppressed moans of suffering. Some of those prayers are answered. May others soon follow !

We are pleased that our contempary has frankly confessed. The "Episcopal minister and Roman Catholic priest' were gentleman who in their personal and religious character stood in the confidence and esteem of the public-and they stood high as educationists. They were the oldest, most experienced and most valuable members of the School Board, Yet the WESLEYAN objected to their presence on the board. The objection was based purely on denominational grounds. Our contempary's idea was that the Episcopalians and Roman Catholics were unduly favored in having clerical representation on the Board. Had a Methodist Minister been appointed. we suppose our contemporary would have been satisfied. But the Baptists, and the Presbyterians, and probably some of the smaller denominations would have been more dissatisfied than ever. The meaning of the WESLEYAN's argument-and our contempary seems unwiling to see it is that if one religious body is allowed elerical representation on the Board the same privilege must be granted to all others. This would make the Board a clerical institution, a result not to be desired or tolerated. Having to choose between a Board without clergymen and one almost entirely composed of clergymen we vote unhesitatingly for the former. Perhaps it is a choice of evils. If so, we are sure that we have chosen the least. To be consistent the WESLEYAN should support the present arrangement." —Halifax Chronicle. There was nothing to confess. Our views as to the old administration, under Father Hannan, were honestly expressed at the time. Our city schools were in that day ruled greatly in the interests of the Roman Catholics. We need not repeat in what way this was done. We had no Methodist preferences-far from it. An unsectarian management was what we desired; and that, to a considerable extent, we have gained by the agitation. But in dismissing Father Hannan, the government, by Dr. Farrell's "rider"-which we hope to see thrown shortly as it deserves-virtually said to the reformers, "Gentlemen, if you will not allow our clergymen to hold a seat as chairman of the School Board, we will see that none of your clergymen shall be eligible to become members thereof." Our neighbour in Prince Street, announced one day last week the appointment of two clergymen-Methodists and worthy men too-to School Boards in the country : and next day informed us that we were inconsistent for demanding that the law should be abrogated which disqualifies clergymen from holding such an office in Halifax. Who is inconsistent, pray?

MR. BREWSTER AGAIN.-If there was sor, where we spend Sabbath, January a particularly strong vein in the con-Five years ago, strongly aided stitution of our old friend Rev. J. by Bro. Smallwood, we stood here in Brewster, it was in the direction of refined sarcasm. Some of his coin of this sort is still in circulation in these Provinces. One of the best castigations he ever administered was to the great arch enemy of mankind, when he attempted to shower scorn and contempt upon some camp-meeting project of Mr. Brewster's. The story, as told by the repellant, was grand in its way.

We are not astonished to find that this disposition in Mr. Brewster is occasionally provoked in England. Our readers will remember the notice of a pamphlet he wrote two years ago against the Bishop of Lincoln. He is now out against another dignitary. Here is what the London Methodist savs of it :-

Gross Outrage ! Inhuman Exposure of Roman Remains. Newbury: Blacket & Son -this is the title of a very race pamphlet, published by the Rev. John Brewster of Newbury, in reply to the article by the Rev. S. B. James, Vicar of North Marston, in the Parish Magazine, headed by the proverb, "Where God has His church the devil will have his chapel.' We cannot say the startling title is at all to our taste: but, with that exception, we find little to object to in his brochure, and very much of which we heartly approve. If Mr. James, as he avows, did not mean to insult Dissenters by his article, he is so destitute of that common sense and knowledge of human nature which should distinguish clerghmen, that he is utterly unfit for his sacred office. If Mr. James did mean to insult the Dissenters, we convict him of wholesale slandering, and then of lying to cover his sin. On one or the other of the horns of this dilemma we leave Mr. James, to the hearty cudgelling of Mr. Brewster, Mr. Rattenbury, and a host of other assailants, who are giving him what he deserves. What Mr. Erskine Clarke can have been about when he admitted such an article into his magazine we cannot tell; but we think and apology as much due from him as from Mr. James. We honestly believe, however, that this spiteful article only reveals the presecuting spirit which animates hundreds of clergymen in country districts-the spirit which expels farmers from their farms and widows from the parish charities because they are conscientious Nonconformists. This spirit is as Romish as that which bunt Crammer ; and the sooner its frightful form and portentous demeanour are recognised the better. Mr. Brewster's pamphlet is clear in argument and withering in sarcasm; and, if we mistake not Mr. James will now "shut up" for some time. We are glad to hear the pamphlet

men; if you can barely pay expenses, keep moving—if only for half time, keep the engine going. If to save yourself from financial run, you are compelled to reduce the wages, you are justified in doing that. If a man would rather starve than work for low wages, he has a right to his preference, though I hepe, for the sake of those who suffer with him, he will be more reasonable and manly. Something must be done. The destitution of this city at this moment is terrible. Men and brethren, help! Capitalists, manufacturers, trust in God and get steam up to-morrow morning, and if the Government in power won't protect your industries, the Lord sent os one that will, and that right early. I suppose there is a secret muttering in some quarters-That is a strange Gospel. No, my brethren, it is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, who would not let the multitude depart unfed, but command His disciples, 'Give ye them to eat,' &c. It is the practical copying of that beautiful example of Divine sympathy contained in my text: God loveth the stranger in giving him food and raiment,' Go ye and do likewise."

Coming from a man of impulsive temperament-who owes much of his pulpit and platform strength to his ardent disposition-there does not seem to be anything in that extract deserving of being classed with the political haraugues of Roman Catholic priests. This is a free country, gentleman, and we have the glorious heritage of liberty of speech, that is, providing you

do not, even by impulse, seem to reflect upon our institutions. In that event it becomes us to say whether you are worthy sf your position.

We do not usually notice anonymous writers, whatever may be their spirit but one in this week's Messenger must have a moment's attention. Alluding to Mr. Sommerville's letter he says :---

"Our brother of the WESLEYAN has een writing some severe and unreasonable things about the Baptists; and now, as if he felt the need of some assistance. when this ally comes in from a different denomination ready to fight a good fight he leads him out into the crowd to strike ight and left, and in his desire to see the fight go on, does not mind being knocked down by his own champion, if only some Baptist can get a good rap.'

This is neither elegant nor truthful. The fact is-and we hesitate even now to avow it, and do so only because compelled in self-defence-we had reason for suspecting that Mr. Sommerville was right in respect to at least a portion of our Baptist friends. That they as a Body-reject the Old Testament as a rule of faith and practice, we can. not believe: and yet a representative Baptist minister, in a celebrated discussion within a few years past, to our knowlege, refused absolutely to receive passages from the Old Testament bear ing upon Baptism, as quoted by his opponent. And if there be a limit thus to the authority of the Bible in one thing, who knows where the line is drawn by our Brethren? We have not vet seen a direct denial of the charge.

THE CONTROVERSY ON BAPTISM. There is a manifest misapprehension prevailing in respect to our attitude on this subject. In opening our columns to Mr. Somerville, we yielded a courtesy which would be granted to any intelligent Christian gentleman. He has written now two of the four letters for which he engaged with us in the outset. Mr. Saunders replies. The discussion belongs, while it lasts, to those two ministers—so far, at least, as we are concerned. They are both representative men. We have ourselves refrained from interfering; we must insist on others following this example. A mass of material has reached us from different quarters, which would imply that at some time we had invited unlimited correspondence on Baptisme This we did not. The mission of this paper is too broad to admit of occupy. ing a great deal of space with a question which even Baptists allow is not essential to salvation.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

FINALE. On two or three occasions, during last Autumn, an article appeared in our editorial columns, bearing upon the relative fertility of certain Circuits, as regards candidates for the ministry. The object was to call out correspondence which might contribute to the advantage of this and succeeding gene. rations, in historio facts. The Editor holding as he did a personal relation to one of those circuits - may have naturally written a word which to others seemed to savour of pride in the place of his spiritual birth, though any intention of provoking opposite feeling wss very far from his mind. When two or three letters appeared in reply from Charlottetown, we, as well as others interested in the original articles, thanked God that Methodism in that island had established so noble a claim. Those replies, however, and other letters which grew out of them, produced a

strong disatisfaction in many parts of

our church, and the correspondence

ordinary degree. It wandered from the

accumulated on our hands to an extra-

Wallace ! !-precise popul derstood it. 4. " The lace and Br twelve mile mile ditto. w names, and Bridgetown. eight or ten tions of Meth 5. Have formed been diction, to h: Truth elsew Until this of the people Wallace, be late. Wallac That is about a little more delusion so ] now, since s wards unveili about the u long time, I indefinite. itself. it show dom "Know in helping t (the voice of man, had be age) says. in : what Wallac Yes. The pe be sure. sorting to thi Who other. G. O. H.? Then, 7. H." opposes course) not to cuit, includir wit, two othe life (one of t ters)--but. a town eircuit Alas, Alas f See the tempt wise would ha 1846 boast, at BENE. 8. No. Wh anything that what it is. C trusive, has but only beca somely loud Here is the Cl with her prese she numbers : umphant, tha together with What I offe in the several correspondenc rated from ali our boast, sho tiori, as the b interpreted, of gestion No. I,

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clined to use the same arguments as our Baptist neighbor us, this would be a fair opportunity for s howing how much evil their doctrines are accomplishing in preventing parents from bringing their children to Christ in baptism.

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Here is a mass of "a ppropriations." too. The amount to be raised for missions is divided among the Annual Conferences; by them again sub-divided among districts and charges. Is that not wise and business-like? Try us, gentle Secretaries and members of the Central Board, and see whether a rule of "appropriations" cannot be made to work both ways.

Too LATE .- Mr. Somerville's third letter, besides a large number of remittances for the paper, come in at toe late an hour to appear in this issue. ' Rev. P. Prestwood.

CONSISTENCY .---- We have seen strange thing in Israel :- Men taking gold watches out of their pockets to measure the time occupied by the minister in breaking the Bread of Life, and then putting copper cents in the plate to pay for it. We wonder if God values the baser metals in the same proportion that we do. If so some of those coppers will be found to the credit of donors in the great account. We do not say where or how often we paper. saw this contradiction.

A few spirited meetings of the Halifax Sabbath School Association have been held this week in Dartmouth. We are sorry we have not space at this late hour for further notice of the transactions.

A supply of Books has been forwarded some time ago to Mr. Wade, Colporteur, Shelburne. They are still in charge of

having a very large ci

MANY friends of Rev. L Gatez would be astonished on reading the following editorial paragraph in the Halifax Chronicle of last Tuesday :---

"Rev. Leonard Gaetz, lately of Nova Scotia and now pastor of a Methodist Church in Montreal, is reported to have preached a political party sermon on Sunday week. We are unable to see the distinction between party sermons preached by Roman Catholic Priests and party sermons preached by Protestant clergy. men. As we condemn the one so we condemn the other. If Mr. Gaetz used the language attributed to him he is unworthy of his position as a minister of the Gospel.

We were quite prepared for something awful when this statement appeared, and proceeded at once in search of the facts.

An evening Montreal paper reported that

"The Rev. Leonard Gaetz delivered a verv impressive and soul stirring sermon in St. James street, Wesleyan Church, on Sunday evening in the course of which he referred to the prevailing depression of busness. He entreated employers of labor to get up steam in their factories on the following morning in God's name. The Rev. gentleman added that he was " not ashamed to entertain the wish and to express it on the Sabbath, that God would send another government that would protect the industries of the country, and send it right early." Another contempor-ary commenting on the above, says :--There can be no doubt that in express ing this wish the Rev. Mr. Gaetz very correctly represents the [general sentiment of the country at the present moment.

The Montreal Witness, in alluding to the circumstance, headed its article "A CLERGYMAN BEYOND HIS DEPTH." But immediately, on receipt of a note from Mr. Gaetz, withdrew the expression and admitted that its oft-enunciated sentiments in regard to liberty of speech should be received in the full force of their meaning. The following correct report of the passage in Mr. Gaetz sermon appeared also in that

"Now for those who are strangers, indeed-not wealthy strangers-but those who, wisely or unwisely, I will not say, have taken up their abode with us-have become our fellow citizens-not to beg; much less to steal, but to earn an honest livelihood, and are willing and anxious to do it. On their behalf, on behalf of the suffering mothers and children. widows and orphans, I ask every manufacturer and employer of labor in this great city not to stop the engines or dismiss the

THE Lecture course of the Y. M.C. A Halifax, was opened by Dr. Burns. W regret that this fact escaped our notice in writing on the subject last week. The Dr. is so philanthropic, so generous, and withal so thoroughly a representative of the best type of platform speak ers, that he can well recommend himself. But none the less do we regret our ommission of last week.

S. M. BROOKFIELD, Esq., has been elected to fill a vacancy in one of the Wards of Halifax. We congratulate the city on the fulfilment of a hope we expressed nearly a year ago :---that the friends of Reform-civic and educational-would yet exert their strength and use their privilege for placing this city on a level with other well-governed communities. We are beginning to have greater faith in human nature.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE last week in cluded a most excellent letter from Newoundland. The writer holds a leading position as a gentleman of culture and literary taste. Our New Brunswick correspondence will be resumed next week probably. We present this week a communication from a most importent part af Quebec territory. It comes a welcome contribution.

OUR Death-notices show that dark shadows have fallen on the family of Rev. J. Lathern of this city. On Thursday of last week their youngest child-a lovely boy of five years-complained of sickness. On Friday Dr. Black pronounced the disease diptheria. On Tuesday morning the child passed to Heaven. May the stricken house-hold have much of heavenly comfort!

aim of the discussion, moreover, so that we determined, in the interests of our readers, to print nothing further on the subject. Since then we learn that a sentiment had been growing in Charottetown all through the period covered by the correspondence, which at length took shape against this paper itself. We do not profess to understand this It seems a matter of so little importance as it affects the general cause of God, which particular Circuit does most for the ministry; and besides, the spirit of fairplay and forbearance in honest criticism has always so fully prevailed among Englishmenthat we regarded all intelligent christians in these parts as true to the principles of their ancestry. The letter which follows comes with a two-fold endorsement. The superintendent of Charlottetown urges its

publication, and the writer-whom we much respect-gives promise that it shall termiuate the discussion.

Our readers may accept the declaration from ourselves in addition that this latter condition shall be carried

out.

## SURELY NOT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR :- To what a warm discussion the correspondence upon the Banner Circuit has waxed both among your columns and around our hearths. Looked at integrally, (if, dear sir, you can in fancy stick together so many contrarieties), surely, if only by the fact of such clamor, and perhaps this is the best review of the case as conducted on both sides,-surely the old fame of Wallace, so implicitly allowed on all hands, is now, in great part, lost; even though the voice of Charlottetown through the throats of its spokesmen be not admitted to have quelled, summarily, the long-used, well-practised ram'shorn, of Ramsheg. Pardon me if I beg a few lines of your useful space. I would see the discussion ended-but yet fairly. I will only offer a few facts, each with its own significance on its face. And, sir, is not this the only logic proper in such a matter?

1. It has been shown to one or two misapprehending correspondents that the scene of spiritual up-springing and early nurture, or of district recommendation, is that which claims a man as its "son."

2. Accordingly, Charlottetown Circuit gives numbers which, up to date, considerably exceed those of whatever the Wal lace writer first-called "Wallace and Bridgetown."

wrong to let t the biograph taches to the ministerial ori of the one Boo ledge of facts out Methodisi macy among t for nearly fo my sympathy thing ! I ask of yo calmly look a and regard the Grateful for

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CHARLOTTE Jany. 25

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NC Amherst is A house at Monday last Skating Ca Province of N. The Spring 89.000 profit 1 An agricultu at Oxford. An Antigon burned. The contrac at L'Ardoise ha Two of our A. S. DesBrisa been made con The Oxford received durin

10,000 yards of Mr. H. M. D jured at the Ol ping down the Two person on Saturday an had a leg broke Some of the

starting an agit franchise. A man name ferry boats run Dartmouth, wh