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## COLPORTAGE.

During the last year the question of Colportage has engaged much attention. Several gentlemen voluntarily offered contributions towards the employment of one or more Colporters. In this way a large amount of literature, the valuable literature of our own Church, was put into circulation in localities where it was most needed. To many a settler in remote and sparsely settled Districts, it was a great boon to obtain a copy of the Pilgrim's Progress, or John Nelson's Journal, or the Biography of John Smith, and other valuable volumes, the most treasured possessions of the Church, for a few cents each.

To endorse the employment of such an agency, to encourage the friends who by generous contributions have sustained this movement, and to draw the direct attention to Home Mission work, the sum of five hundred dollars was set apart for the Conference for the Home Mission Fund, for employing Colporters—who shall distribute suitable books in desirable localities, and render service in Home Mission work generally.

The carrying out of this object was entrusted to the Conference Executive Book Committee. To give effect to Conference action, the following resolutions were passed, in a meeting of the Committee held on the 6th July.

1. That a Colporter be employed in each of the Conferences of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, and that special arrangements be made with Newfoundland.

2. That some of the brethren having intimated their intention to give up their interest upon the proposed Book Room Fund, all such amounts, with any other contributions which may be received for the same object, shall be expended for the benefit of the Conference from which they may be received.

3. That a Committee be authorized to act on behalf of the Executive, for the special purpose of carrying out Conference action in regard to the employment of Colporters.

4. That Rev. W. H. Harris, the Book Steward, with J. Wesley Smith, Samuel Brookfield, C. W. Worsmore, J. Irving and Martin B. Huestis, Esqrs., are hereby constituted such a Committee.

To those interested in the diffusion of Wesleyan literature through the length and breadth of the land, more especially in Home Mission Districts of the Conference, the above resolutions will constitute both explanation and appeal. The books referred to are for amounts paid by several ministers for meeting in past times the liabilities of the Book Concern. The proposal has been made by several brethren voluntarily to transfer these amounts to the benefit of the Colportage Fund. The Book Steward will be glad at once to receive the names of others, who, for the accomplishment of a great work, are prepared to make the same generous offer.

The members of our Church who by their liberality have prompted this more meet, will, we hope, continue to aid its important operations. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the Book-Steward.

## Provincial Wesleyan.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1874.

### THE LOGIC OF ILLUSTRATION.

We have heard a sermon which did not contain a single argument. And yet it was, throughout, argumentative, eloquent, yes, riveting (yes, riveting—we like the word—not merely nailing but clinching the attention) of the audience from beginning to end. Very much like that specimen of persuasive address by the master-preacher, in which, purposing to incite a hearer to diligence, he portrayed a specimen such as he could recommend, and simply added—"Go thou and do likewise."

The wonder is that, with Christ's preaching before us, christian ministers could ever have abandoned the use of illustration, or be led to regard it—as so many have—as beneath the dignity of the pulpit. For centuries, divines wrote and preached the doctrines of the Bible in terse, cogent, masterly strains of reasoning, followed by the inevitable summary and application. There came a day when the Church was almost started out of its propriety by hearing, in connection with the usual syllogism, a story or incident from every-day life. It would be difficult to say who led the way in England; but notably Whitfield and the Welsh orators of Methodism struck into this new path. Wesley indulged in similes less. His Journals, however, supply abundantly what was lacking in his sermons. Chalmers and Guthrie introduced the illustrative method into Scotland,—the one drawing his illustrations from science, the other chiefly from Nature. Chalmers delighted in the laboratory and the stars; Guthrie revelled in the storm and was at home on the ocean. Beecher is the King of illustration in the American pulpit. Readers of innumerable sermons hence will find in his inimitable portraits a better representation of all the horrors of human life than could be gathered from all the histories together. The—the iniquities of social life—the temptations of business—the modes, miseries and joys of the domestic circle, are all painted there in bold relief.

It would be dangerous to present this style with such prominence as to encourage the belief among young aspirants to public usefulness that all preaching which excludes illustration is necessarily defective. There is a possibility, indeed, that with some speakers a rash resort to storytelling would have a sad effect upon their reputation. In no style is cultivation so much required as in this, and only to persons of rich and fertile imagination can it ever become perfectly natural. Withal, it requires wide stores of information and especially the exercise of judgment, or what, in plain English, we call good common sense.

We listened for forty minutes, on one occasion, to a Pastor in a magnificent New York Church, addressing his Sunday school on a special festival day. It was a string of anecdotes, many of them inapposite and unnatural—an outrage, in fact, upon the plain, the day and the audience. The simplest recital of child-like temptations, tears and perplexities, with a word or two of literary counsel, would have been a feast; as it was, the passion for illustration about ruined every thing.

Still, an observer cannot but be impressed with the vast advantage possessed by Preachers of good illustrative faculty and address. They are the Princes of our Pulpits and Platforms. It must be that, according to their success in awakening and challenging public thought, God owns them in leading souls to repentance and faith. This being so, we are plainly exhorted to make every judicious use of this talent. Our young Ministers, especially, (we hope the senior,) will not regard occasional articles in these columns, having a bearing on public address, as intended for any other purpose than that of encouraging and stimulating the rising ministry; our young ministers, we repeat, would do well to cultivate the use of illustration. Let them study the Masters in this art; read assiduously and systematically with a view to this end; mark its effect upon their hearers, and having discovered their chief strength, so husband and employ it that their lives may be rendered doubly fruitful, and their Master more effectually served.

AND NOW.—What remains to be done in the matter of union? Thus far the way has been wondrously providential. One or two short years have brought about a consummation of plans and prayers which has embraced far more than most of us anticipated,—than many of us anticipated at this moment. There never has been a union analogous to this. The great union of American Methodism is held in cohesion by its beech of Bishops. It is in one sense autocratic. We have set about a union more thoroughly republican than our neighbors ever dreamed of. Even now they doubt its success. An independent, self-governing Body in every way, is this to be. Our Australian Brethren took the lead in this mode of church-government; but they have only organized, and had no experimental wisdom to offer us. Our union is purely an experiment.

These things considered, our progress has been marvellously rapid and free from agitation. One sees occasionally in the experiments of chemists, the separation and subsequent union of elements without a single covalent struggle. Thus quietly have we changed our ecclesiastical relations. No party has offered combat. The exercises of public and private worship have not been affected farther than, perhaps, to quicken the flame of gratitude and devotion. Church courts meet and legislate without feeling that they constitute parts of an organization which stretches from the Labrador to the valley of the Saskatchewan. Methodism from the beginning has been remarkable for its gradual outgrowth of men, and excellent modes and facilities of operation, as the Church and the world seemed to require them; so this recent transformation is but a link in the great chain of Methodist providences.

Manifestly, we have but to continue in this passive attitude—waiting for indications of the Divine mind. Our way will open, and any hindrances which may present themselves at present will be removed. But while trustful, we must not lose sight of our individual responsibility. This is to be a union of individuals quite as much as of churches. To give it effect, all should work, pray, hope and labor. All the inspiration of what we are may now be cherished. One with the toiling itinerant in the back woods of the far west, as with the venturesome herald of Christ who urges his way in the remote bays of Newfoundland, and the devoted missionary who abandons home and friends for a precarious residence in Japan.

QUERY?—It is asserted that a teacher has been dismissed by the Halifax School Board, or whoever manages school matters in this city, because he refused to sign the complimentary address to Dr. Hannan upon his resignation.

We do hope this statement can be contradicted. See what it would imply, could it be established that on such grounds a teacher had been dismissed. He was asked to declare to Dr. Hannan in these words,—"You have been our strongest support, our ablest adviser in all difficulties, and beyond all others the readiest and most kindly friend in every time of need. We have all sought your counsel in our frequent difficulties and never sought it in vain. Your benevolence and hearty kindness of manner so voluntarily shown at all times have endeared you to our memory, and we beg leave to assure you as emphatically as we can, that this is no conventional and stereotyped form of regard at the formal resignation of a member of the Board, but a spontaneous and genuine expression of sorrow at an irreparable loss—the loss of our ablest advocate, and one of the most valued of our personal friends."

And again,—  
"We trust that the spirit of Christian charity, liberality and benevolence, which it has been your object to diffuse, may still pervade the remaining members of the Board, and that we may continue to reap the fruits of your invaluable labors, and see

the beneficial effects of the unstinted exercise of your great ability in the future management of the educational affairs of the city."

Concluding with subscribing himself,  
"Most respectfully, gratefully,  
And affectionately, yours."

It may have been very well for the eighteen or twenty unlicensed teachers of the city to subscribe to this document at the dictation of some very ardent disciple; but if an individual chose to exercise a little independence of thought and action in regard to this or any other matter, should he be punished with instant dismissal?

Once more we ask—Who rules in the educational interests of Halifax?

## PRESENTATIONS.

CHARLES ST. CHURCH gave its pastor and his young wife a right royal reception last week. A large audience assembled in the Church; enthusiastic speeches were made and addresses presented from congregation and Sunday school. Nor did the congratulations expire with mere words. A Farse of \$75 and a handsome Ice Pitcher and Salver were presented to the happy couple. Our friends have been celebrating the silver and even golden wedding quite earlier than most of people. May they long live to serve the Church and Christ.

Charles St. has been brought to his present prosperous state through Mr. St. labourers, and it gratefully appreciates them.

The Rev. Mr. Maggs late pastor of the Carmarthen Street Church, St. John N. B., was made the recipient of a purse containing \$100, on the eve of his retiring from the Pastorate of that Church, after a ministry of three years.

The female Bible Class of which he had been the teacher also presented a picture, beautifully framed, containing their photographs. To each of the addresses the Rev. Gentleman made a suitable and feeling reply.

The presentations were made by the superintendent of the Sabbath school, Mr. J. W. Potts, on behalf of the Church Congregation and School, and in consideration of the indefatigable labours of his pastor, and consequent progress made by the Church during his ministry.

The Head Quarters, of Frederick, N. B., gives its readers the following:—  
"THE REV. MR. GAZT was made the recipient, last evening of a handsome gold watch, presented by the congregation; and Mrs. Gazt was presented with a silver butter cooler. The accompanying address was read by ex-Governor Wilnot; Mr. Gazt making a suitable and feeling reply."

Mr. Gazt's incumbency in that Metropolitan City has been one of undeviating faithfulness and success. We wish equal happiness to his successor.

THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE, we perceive by the Guardian, has been called by the authorities west to meet in advance of General Conference. Instructions are given for Financial District Meetings to convene and prepare their claims in time for the Missionary Committee to decide upon them. This is to us a very surprising procedure in view of the recent movement toward union. The several Annual Conferences have elected representatives to the General Missionary Committee. Do the Western officials intend that the invitation of the Guardian shall summon all these to Toronto at the time mentioned? or do they assume to act independently of us altogether? We believe the representatives of the lower Provinces regard the General Committee as being entirely under regulation of the General Conference, and will be prepared to act as it may direct.

It would seem, however, that to be uniform in action, our Financial Districts should be called together here also, with a view to an authoritative presentation of Circuit claims at the General Committee. Doubtless, Conference Presidents will see it their duty to issue notices for this purpose.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAW.—It appears that a powerful attempt is now to be made by the Roman Catholic Body in New Brunswick to influence the General Parliament against the Non-Sectarian Free School system. We had hoped that all this agitation would cease in view of the strong expression of the recent election. If majorities—large and intelligent—are not permitted to govern, there is an end of all peace. Our neighbours of the Roman Catholic faith in Nova Scotia are more politic. Failing to obtain separate schools, they set about engraving their own system on that of the country; discovered in their attempts in this direction, they do not attempt to stem the current of public prejudice but show every disposition to conciliate. At all events they do not declare open war. An ordinary knowledge of human nature ought to convince the agitator in New Brunswick that little is now to be gained by strife.

GENERAL CONFERENCE COLLECTION.—The Nova Scotia Conference ruled that a collection, to defray the expenses of Delegates to General Conference, should be made on the second Sunday in August, and forwarded to the Book Steward immediately thereafter. In making their arrangements for the next few Sabbaths, Brethren will not forget this.

DEATH OF MRS. DOCKRELL.—It is early in the year to commence the record of ministerial bereavement and sorrow; but our Lord knows best what should be our portion. It may well be prayed, however, that our Brethren shall be spared the heavy chastening which fell upon our members during the last year. Surely the domestic experience of the Conference of E. B.

America was very sad and painful during the year 1874.

By telegraph we learned, too late for last issue, that the beloved wife of Rev. C. W. Dockrell, of Kingston, N. B., entered into rest on Friday 16th inst.

OFF TO NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Agent for our important Endowment Fund has been thus far very successful since Conference. Since his last report we understand he has received subscriptions amounting to several hundreds of dollars, making an aggregate, since Conference, of nearly \$3000.

And may he venture to cross the seas! Newfoundland has proved itself liberal and true to all our Connexion interests; it is now to have an opportunity of standing face to face with Dr. Pickard and the Endowment Fund. We have pledged our faith in Newfoundland as regards this appeal. The issue cannot be doubtful. The Agent will return with a noble report.

## Correspondence.

### MINISTERS' SALARIES.

MR. EDITOR,—I have just noticed, in the admirable Report of Conference proceedings, the number of the "Wesleyan" that your able Reporter, "J. R. B.," has erroneously stated that the motion, introduced by myself, for an increase of salary of ministers on independent Circuits, was carried only by a small majority.

The purpose of the motion was to fix the minimum amount of salary of ministers on independent Circuits, at seven hundred and fifty dollars per annum, instead of six hundred and fifty dollars as heretofore, on account of the recent great increase in the cost of living. After a considerable discussion of the subject, it was, as you understood, unanimously adopted by the Conference.

D. D. CURRIE.

We cheerfully publish the following in regard to the "National Camp Meetings."

PORTLAND, 16th JULY, 1874.

DEAR BRO.—Perhaps you would have no objections to state in the "Wesleyan" that arrangements have been made, so that the boats running from Halifax and St. John to Portland, will carry for half price, those who wish to come to the National Camp Meeting, to be held at "Old Orchard."

The Camp Ground is only half an hour's ride from Portland by the Boston and Maine Railroad. The meeting begins on our side on Monday, and will continue ten days. Some of the ablest preachers in the country are expected to be present. It was said that there were present on the ground at no time last year, ten thousand people. Good boarding houses and dining rooms abound.

Yours etc.,  
CHAS. B. FITZLEAD.

P. S. I am well. Glad to see from "Wesleyan" that my old Circuit are prospering. Your paper is to me a luxury. It is "Good news from home."

## THE CAMP MEETING.

MR. EDITOR.—Allow me to present to your readers a feature of the late Camp Meeting, which perchance your other correspondents may not touch upon. I refer to a most interesting service held on Friday 12th inst. at the meeting of the general Sabbath schools who were on the ground. In accordance with a previous arrangement, the Windsor Methodist Sabbath school arrived on the ground about 11 a.m., accompanied by the Berwick Sabbath school, which had organized to meet their visitors and escort them to the grove. It was a beautiful sight as one gazed upon the faces of somewhere about one thousand children, as with happy hearts and joyous looks they assembled in the leafy temple of worship God.

After singing and prayer, the children were addressed and welcomed by the President of the Association, Rev. F. H. Pickles, in a few well chosen and appropriate remarks. Dr. Palmer was then called upon, and interested the little ones by reminiscences of his childhood, and of his early conversion and his subsequent life till the present time. His large congregation of little people seemed to drink in the words of counsel and sympathy which fell from his lips, with great delight. He was followed by Bro. Henry Furness of Boston, who smiling face and happy words in no degree lessened the attention and interest of the children. Mrs. Palmer spoke next, and if the meeting had been blessed before, it was doubly blessed as from the rich stores of her own personal experience, and from her wide knowledge of little one's needs, she portrayed to them the advantages of early piety and the after blessings flowing from it. The closing address was made by Bro. J. D. Pickles of Boston, whose youthful appearance attracted attention, and whose touching utterances commended themselves irresistibly to many hearts. The meeting was a novel and unique one, and was undoubtedly a blessing to those engaged in it. May God's grace rest upon the Sabbath schools represented, and upon all in the Province, that the coming generation may be soundly instructed in the things of Christ, and early brought to a personal knowledge of Jesus. The order and unflinching attention of the children were truly remarkable, and reflected credit upon the morals of the schools. K

## Circuit Intelligence.

YARMOUTH EAST.—We had a very successful Tea Meeting at Darling Lake last Tuesday, and raised over \$200. We are building a very neat church in that community, which is to be completed in September. Our friends in town have so generously supported us in the enterprise, that we hope to have it entirely free from debt when it is opened for public worship.

J. M. P.

## Miscellaneous.

NEW CONNECTION.—The Evangelical Witness makes the following official announcement. It will explain the present position of our Brethren in that branch of the Methodist Church:

THE ADJOURNED CONFERENCE.

Pursuant to resolution of the Conference which met at Milton on the twentieth day of May last, an adjourned meeting of the same Conference is hereby called for Wednesday August 12th, at 10 a. m., to be held in the town of Milton. It is hoped that as full a representation as possible from all parts of our work will be secured to dispose of the important items of

business that have then to be dealt with. It is understood, of course, that all appointees, lay and clerical, to the Conference of last May are eligible for attendance at the adjourned meeting hereby convened. No new elections by the Quarterly Boards are required. Amongst the questions to be taken up on our assembling will be:

1st. The formal recognition of the report of our deputation to England, and our consequent action on a de-nomination on the question of Union.

2nd. The financial and other arrangements required by the necessities of our work in the interval prior to the meeting of our administration into that of the United Body.

3rd. The possibility of an immediate re-adjustment of our work at a few points where the continuance of existing arrangements will involve serious outlay, with no prospect of corresponding results.

4th. The appointment of delegates, clerical and lay, to the General Conference of the United Body, to be held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on the 16th day of September next. Regarding the appointment of lay-delegates, we are aware that the Basis specifies that this shall be done otherwise than in now proposed. A reference, however, to clause 5 of the Basis will show that in this matter a literal compliance with the terms of the new constitution is not open to us. Some provisional arrangement will be required, which its aggregate judgment of the Conference can decide upon as the best under the circumstances, and which will not doably be accepted by the General Conference.

5th. Shall any instructions be given to our delegates to the General Conference, and if so what—as to the sense of the de-nomination respecting the treatment by the General Conference in its legislation of certain matters, such as, (a) The proposed publishing interest, shall the Evangelical Witness be continued? (b) The time to be fixed upon and the methods to be pursued in the reconstruction of our work.

6th. The completion of unfinished business lying over from the sessions of May relating to the Superannuated Preachers' Annuity Society; the work of the Board of Examiners; arrangements for a collection in each of our churches towards defraying the expenses of the General Conference, etc.

Will all who intend being present at the above adjourned Conference send at once an intimation to that effect (post paid) to the Rev. George Brown, Milton.

The same paper gives hopeful expression on the point of union in these words:—  
"The practical advantages which are likely, and in some instances are sure to result from the present 'Union' experiment are constantly coming to the surface. We received, for instance, lately a letter from our senior minister, in which he says: 'The rides here are killing.' On the 22nd, I rode forty miles and met three congregations! Now let it be observed that all this travel, with the time consumed and the labor involved, was the experience of a minister of one of our oldest and most advanced circuits. This statement from our venerable friend came to us on the same day on which the following was also received; it is an extract from a letter to the Christian Guardian by the Rev. Peter Campbell, one of the missionaries in our great West Indies. The almost entire loss of two branches of the great Methodist family argues a future of conquest, or triumph almost without a parallel in our past history. I for one would exceedingly regret if any circumstances should arise to prevent or even defer the anticipated union. A united Church will be able to send a larger number of men to cultivate the waste places of this great moral desert that stretches around us in every direction for hundreds of miles unpeopled by a single ray of Gospel light, undisturbed by a single surgical effort, save that which comes from our widely separated mission stations. . . . Where there are only four laborers there ought to be a score of faithful, heaven-appointed men toiling for the salvation of the tribes, bearing immortal souls up to the throne of God in 'hervent, effectual prayer.' I for one see a pledge of the speedy evangelization of this people."

## MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS.

Improvements are being made in the Male Academy to afford greater class room accommodation. The first flat of the west end of the Academy formerly divided into two rooms and a hall, has been made into one large class room, and a staircase has been added, and the windows large, affording ventilation, and leading to the room a bright airy look. Off this room on the north side is the cloak room, with a staircase to the class rooms above, and a staircase through a porch leading outdoors. Up stairs are two class rooms, both of good size and height. One of them will be used as the mathematical room; the other as the commercial room. Furniture is being made for the latter in St. John. It will be fitted up with all the latest and most approved appliances used in Commercial Colleges. A Banking Institution and an Emporium of trade will give students a thoroughly practical acquaintance as to the manner in which business is conducted, and familiarize their minds with banking, railroading, steamboating, shipping, trading and other employments, that when they leave school they will be generally prepared for any ordinary business avocation. This department will be under the management of S. E. Waiston Esq., who has had a very successful career, as a commercial teacher. The fee for instruction in this department will be \$30 or \$15 per term. Students attending can take one or more classes in the regular Academic course, in order to fully occupy their time. Diplomas will be granted to any one completing the course, and passing the required examination. This new departure on the part of the Faculty will supply a deficiency in the Sackville Institution, that exists generally in all the higher schools in the Province, and as a rule there is too great an effort made to create the youthful mind with knowledge possessing no practical bearing on the business of life, and as a consequence to many young men after spending years in study find themselves as helpless as children when thrown amongst business men. In recognizing the importance of a study to adapt young men for the regular business of life, the Institution exhibits a progressive spirit and moves with the age.

The Principal of the Male Academy is the Rev. David Kennedy, A. M., who we understand is a gentleman of fine attainments and much force of character.

In the Ladies Academy, there will be some changes in the staff of teachers. Miss Chesley so long and favorably connected with the Institution as a teacher becomes Preceptress. The Professor of Music Mr. Guernsey of Fort Edmund Institute N. Y., possesses fine gifts both as a pianist and vocalist, and is well adapted to sustain the reputation of this school as the leading musical seminary in these Provinces.

We are pleased to notice that the Rev. Mr. Barwash who takes the Mathematical chair, has already arrived from Ontario.

The Faculty is to be congratulated upon again securing his services. We predict for the Institution another very successful year's work.—Ch. Post.

## THE CAMP MEETING.

(From Berwick Star.)

MR. EDITOR.—I have had great pleasure in attending the Camp Meeting, just closed in your vicinity, and desire to express through your columns the satisfaction I have experienced through the week. God was indeed present with his people, and the scenes witnessed one of the great Camp Meetings annually held by the Jews under the command of God when they dwelt in "booths" or tents. The meetings have been of universal interest and of great power. Whatever objections one may have to Camp Meetings no one could possibly attend these meetings who had any love for Christ in his breast, but would plainly see that God's blessing was on them. Order and solemnity characterized the meetings, and on Sunday was this especially manifested, when perhaps six thousand people were on the ground. At one time during the sermon of Rev. Dr. McKean, your correspondent observed that there was almost perfect quiet, as the vast multitude were swayed by the stirring and eloquent words of the speaker under the influence of the Holy Ghost. Without doubt the Camp Meeting is destined to be a mighty influence for God in the Province.

A very remarkable fact showing the good providence of God, was shown in connection with the weather. Without exception we were enabled to worship at the stand as appointed. God sent rain but it came when our tent meetings were in progress or during the night. On special instances was manifested on Sunday night, west at the close of the service at the stand; God sent a very heavy rainstorm down upon the country, compelling an immediate retreat of those who had come from the surrounding country to their homes thus frustrating the designs of the devil through many of his emissaries who had gathered together for mischief. What thoughtful man does not see the hand of God in this?

One of the most interesting services was that in which the ordinance of baptism was administered by the President of the Conference assigned by the President of the Camp Meeting Association.

One of the finest addresses on the subject of baptism to which it was ever our privilege to listen, was made by the first mentioned gentleman, Rev. Mr. McMurray. With the utmost courtesy to other denominations, he most closely and concisely set forth the Methodist view of baptism, holding the ground that the Methodist Church being what they claimed to be, Bible Baptists. The subject of the ordinance was converted during the services, and if a soul outweighs worlds in value, surely this conversion would silence all cavil, at least on the tongues of the meetings were brought to a close on the afternoon of Tuesday, when after an interesting sermon from Mr. Shepherdson, addresses were made by the President of the Conference, Rev. Mr. Pickles and others. The occasion was one of deep solemnity, and as the congregation were brought in feeling terms to pledge themselves to meet each other in heaven, every heart seemed to be glowing, and signified their intention of so doing by standing up. The people then sang that beautiful song, "We shall meet on that beautiful shore" after which the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. McMurray, and the Berwick Camp Meeting for 1874 was closed.

## THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

(St. Paul, Minn. Press, July 2.)

Everything found growing in gardens is destroyed, with the exception of the pumpkin vines, and for these the grasshopper has no stomach. Senator Rice made an experiment some time ago to test the endurance of these pests by catching one tolerably well grown, tying a string around its neck, and then leaving him suspended in the open air. Senator Rice left his victim hanging for one week, then untied the string, and the grasshopper jumped off in the best of health and most cheerful of spirits. Senator Rice is convinced that they will grow fat on torments, and that choking and drying fall will kill the grasshoppers of this year. A subscriber, writing from Charlestown, Rowland County, under date June 22, says: "The grasshoppers are eating up everything along the Cottonwood River, and I fear that we will have hard times here next winter. All my own crops are destroyed except corn. If they do not leave soon, all those living on the bank of the Cottonwood will have their crops destroyed." The Jackson "Republican" of June 27th contains the following in regard to their movements: "The wings of the grasshoppers, which were first found fully developed on Friday of last week, began to be used by the pests to take them out of the country on Monday. Every day since, from ten o'clock in the morning to three in the afternoon, the air has been full of the winged emigrants, all travelling in the same direction. Their mode of navigating the air is a little peculiar. Starting from the ground they turn their heads towards the wind, and are borne by it backwards, like a crawfish. Where they are going and how far they will be before they again visit the earth, is a question of little importance to our people as long as they are leaving here, but we can but have a sigh for the community where they do cast anchor. Many are still here, but the millions that leave daily are gladly parted with, and the rest will follow as soon as they are ready to sail trimmed. The damage done during the week has been immense, and in a large section little is left growing, but the wild prairie grass" Mr. G. H. Herrick, of St. James, has forwarded to this office a number of stalks of wheat, which afford corroborative evidence of the statement that the attention of the grasshoppers is mainly confined to the stalk and its juices. The sample received is from the farm of J. G. Boutwell, and is the best that could be found in his tract of 800 acres of wheat, and this is certainly a discouraging specimen. Herrick adds that in by far the largest portion of Wantonwan county not even the straw remains, and grain and vegetables have been devoured. Some families will require aid within sixty days, and the people are beginning to discuss the propriety of calling an extra session of the Legislature, to enable the devastated counties to issue bonds to provide for those who must be helped to avoid suffering and perhaps starvation. The people prefer this course to making appeals for charity or voluntarily contributions from their more fortunate neighbors.

The English Wesleyan Conference, which is about to meet, holds its sessions this year at Carborone. The spiritual results of the year, as to membership, are encouraging, as the statistics will show a gain of 4,000. Mr. Arthur is named once more as a candidate for the presidency, but Mr. Pashon seems to be the coming man. Other names, such as Rev. A. M. Macaulay, are also pressed. The honor

seems greatly coveted. It has certainly been well sustained in past years. The chair has been occupied by men who have adorned it with a high degree of ability, as well as received reflected honor from it, as being thus designated one of the first among their peers.—Zion's Herald.

## NASTY BOOKS.

We are very sorry to see that the country is suffering from an invasion of nasty literature. Men of respectability are engaged in circulating so-called Medical Books that are disgusting and abominable, and whose soul tendency is demoralizing. Some of these books are cheap as well as nasty; but others are handsomely bound and—save the mark!—intended for the drawing room table. They are illustrated with pictures that may be necessary to the student of medicine but that are simply obscene in books intended for general circulation.—Can anything be done to stop the detestable trade in these articles? We mention no names, but the small number of those who for petty gain engage in the vile work of selling these villainous books. It may become necessary to expose them with their work to public shame.

In New York so many young gentlemen connected with the Young Men's Christian Association engaged in a crusade against loose books and pictures, and succeeded in destroying tons of the abominable stuff. Could not our Association do something to save our own families from the plague of nastiness and immorality that threatens us?

There are popular Medical books, intended for family use, that are so full of errors as to be almost worthless. We could name more than one. These are cheap and decent, and serve every practical purpose. The other books are nasty, morally poisonous, and quite unfit for perusal. In some of them, descriptions are given of vices and enormities which we hope will never be forever unknown unknown among our people. We respectfully call the attention of the Young Men's Christian Associations in town and country to the matter. We are reluctant to say much on the subject, but we believe the time has come when remedial steps must be taken to prevent grave evils.—Presbyterian Witness.

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE METHODIST.

SIR.—Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the manner in which the Lord's Supper is administered in Baptist and Congregational churches, and if they think as I do, that it is there conducted in a much better manner than in our Wesleyan churches, to ask them to use their influence to get our services altered.

In the above-mentioned chapels, the congregation assemble in the pews nearest the reading desk, which the minister occupies. After singing, offering prayer, and reading some suitable verse, the bread and wine is handed round by the deacons, which is the people partake of sitting down; after singing another hymn, offering prayer, and praise, the service is usually closed. This is a far more orderly and fitting manner in which to conduct that solemn service than the way in which Methodists conduct it; there is none of the bustle and excitement which is inevitable when a large number of people are continually walking up and down, and not nearly so much toiling about the altar. Also to many people there seems to be a remnant of Popery left in the service; they cannot understand why the elements should be received kneeling, it makes them think of the adoration of the mass; and I again they cannot understand why the minister should partake of the bread and wine separately from the congregation, and then repeat the very same words over again perhaps ten or twelve times. This is surely an unnecessary waste of time, and makes the service so tedious that the most devoutly faithful are often attending so frequently as they otherwise would. I have spoken to several members of society on this subject, and they have all without exception expressed their desire to see our services altered. I think that this is a very important matter, and I shall be very much pleased to hear the opinion of others on it.

I am, Sir, your respectfully,  
A LONDON METHODIST.

New York City has been thoroughly aroused over the question of hydrophobia. The frightful dying sufferings of two well-known gentlemen, after every measure suggested by the medical science of the world had been tried in vain, created something more than a sensation; it fairly amounted to a scare. A fearful penalty is visited upon the unconscious dogs themselves. Their expiring "bark on the wave" and many a more merciful man than the usual dog, the friend of the brute race, hundreds have been without protracted pain, sacrificed to the terror of the hour. The great good growing out of this temporary evil is, the very thorough scientific investigation that is now being made of this awful disease. Dr. Hammond, with several well-known surgeons, has made a careful post mortem examination. The full and very interesting result, illustrated after the liberal manner of that paper, is published in the Tribune of July 1st. It has been made up, contrary to previous notions, that hydrophobia is not a poisoning of the blood but finds its seat in the great nerve centres. The medulla oblongata was found chiefly affected by serious lesions, and also the spinal nerves. It is proved, to be a brain disease, and therefore the first real step is taken toward the discovery of some effectual cure. The most singular fact is the case of Mr. McCormick, who, as we write, has just been removed, in the early stages of the disease, to Bellevue Hospital. In this case it is made clearly to appear that the disease was by a dog that neither has been and it is not now, himself used. The animal is still alive, and under the surveillance of medical men, but is perfectly innocuous and healthy. The present careful, scientific examinations will, without doubt, result in the solution of the mystery hanging about this long inscrutable disease.

The last patient has since died; his autopsy thus far gives no evidence of death by hydrophobia, but he seems to have been worn out by excitement, and weakness by previous drinking habits.—Zion's Herald.

THE PROPOSED TUNNEL UNDER THE BRITISH CHANNEL.—The feasibility of this project, and the advantages and disadvantages of various localities proposed for it are still being discussed. Mr. Joseph Prestwich, an eminent engineer and geologist, has recently investigated the conditions of the strata between the continent of Europe and the coast of England. These researches extend from Orford, Belgium, to St. Valéry in Normandy, France, and from Hastings to Harwich on the English side; and by them it was ascertained that a deposit of the Thames to Danikirk, on the north-east point of France. This deposit is from 200 to 400 feet thick, and of some consistency and homogeneity of the clay as shown