

# The Wesleyan

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The typographical and other mechanical work of this fine book we leave to others to notice. Behind its pleasant appearance we hide our modest head, as is becoming a publisher giving his first volume to the world. But we have no sense of shame—anything but that!

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*Many Thoughts of Many Minds*, 8rd edition. Price \$3.75. This is one of the Cyclopedias of illustration which have recently proved so valuable as aids to study. By selecting the best thoughts of great minds on classified subjects

the author gives the student the richest comments without the necessity of keeping the works of the great writers. This is the first appearance of the book on this side of the water.

*Nesleton Magna, a Story of Yorkshire Methodism.* Price \$1.50. This story first appeared in the London *Methodist*, and proved so immensely popular that it was republished in book form, and at a rather high price. But the author knew what he was doing. It is difficult to lay the book down at any stage of its reading. We have never met exactly such a story—its description of Methodist life, mingled with the most romantic of English rural habits, is something unique.

(Some correspondence crowded out.)

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

### THE AUSTRALIAN DEPUTATION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—At the request of the brethren of the Australasian Conference, a Deputation from the English Conference has been sent on a visit to them. The honor has fallen upon the well-known and much-beloved Gervase Smith—now known as the Rev. Dr. Gervase Smith. Remembering the success of his visit to Canada, and his distinguished services to our Church at home, it is certain that the right man has been chosen for this important mission. It is hoped that a double benefit will be secured. Our brethren in these far-away realms will be cheered by the presence and assisted by the able counsels of their visitor; and it is widely known that Mr. Smith has been in rather feeble health of late, the voyage and entire change of air, will, it is trusted, work beneficially upon him and conduce to his recovery. It remains to be seen whether the brethren in Australia will deal mercifully with the noble brother who is gone to them, and refrain from overtaking his physical powers. We have had some rather painful experience in the after history of some who have been sent abroad as the messengers of the churches. It has often proved far too great a task and one from which even a brave and good man might well shrink.

### NEWS FROM INDIA

is decidedly hopeful and cheering. Copious rains have fallen over a wide area of the parched and desolate territory and the crops which are growing will in due time yield a fair harvest. Yet it is calculated that provision must be made for large numbers for nearly four months. It has been stated that the necessity is yet so great that the Imperial Government will be compelled to grant a large amount to enable the Indian authorities to tide over the trouble. The response of private benevolence in England has been on a splendid scale. Nearly £400,000 has been paid in to the Mission House Fund, and in addition several of the Missionary Societies have raised special funds as referred to in my last letter. The amount received at Centenary Hall is above £5,000, and it is increasing daily.

### AUTUMNAL CONGRESSES

are now in session. On all sort of subjects, and in all parts of the kingdom, learned men and men of religious tendencies are meeting for the discussion of their various topics. We have this year had a decided novelty in the form of a Congress of Librarians. Those custodians of the mighty literature of past ages, and of the ever-accumulating books of the present have met and discussed questions pertaining to their work, and really they succeeded in making a strong case for the necessity of their gathering. The immense work of preparing catalogues, the size and form of the buildings, the best temperature for the preservation of books and manuscripts and the style of binding which ought to be adopted were among the questions which were discussed.

### THE CHURCH CONGRESS

is largely attended and leading men of the three great sections, the High, the Broad, and the Evangelical parties are present and take part in the proceedings. There is a want of harmony and not a little bitterness of feeling, yet beneath all this there is a strong purpose a resolute determination to work for the advancement of church principles which cannot be mistaken, and which is the secret of very much of their undoubted success in the country.

### RITUALISM IN IRELAND

is advancing, and becoming more open and defiant. It is sad to learn that among the foremost of the party, there is one or more trained in Methodism and now having gone over to the advanced section of the English Church, are endeavoring to hide their antecedents by an extra display of ritualistic fervor. The last move was in the form of a *Retreat*—after the model of the Roman Catholics, in which the devotees separate themselves for about ten days from all outside affairs and give themselves up to meditation, to protracted services and frequent communions, and if rumour may be credited, to confessions and absolutions in the most approved fashion, at the hands of experienced Father confessors. The sturdy Protestantism of Ireland has loudly condemned the proceedings of these men, but they care not for public criticism and rather glory in this mild form of martyrdom. We still hear of accessions to the Roman communion from the ranks of those misguided men, who are thus directly weakening the English Church and building up the great apostasy and the foe of our liberty and truth.

Oct. 15, 1877.

### OUR ONTARIO LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Your Western correspondent is not dead, though it is many months since anything from his pen appeared in your columns. We wrote you a Conference letter in June last, in which we tried to do justice to the rising town of Guelph. But either the letter never reached its destination, or accidentally got lost amid the mass of your correspondence about that time. (The letter appeared in our columns, though a little late, and on an inside page. We explained the cause of delay at the time, and expressed thanks to our correspondent.—EDITOR.) Just as we were starting for Conference, one of our stewards stepped into our humble parsonage—"I don't know what we are going to do the next year," said he. "Can't see how we are going to pay preachers. Everything is ruined. Barley and oats will be a complete failure. Corn will amount to nothing. Our country's ruined. No rain can save our crops now. I don't know what we're going to do." I saw that man a little while ago—"Best crop we most ever harvested. Wheat turns out splendid. Never saw a much better crop of oats—Barley, capital. Corn's going to be tip-top. We'll have good pork this fall. Never saw such a summer; seemed as though it knew just when to rain, and when to hold up. Got my hay in in capital order, and a good second crop of clover, if I can cure it. Clover seed, though, is not going to be as good as some years. Don't think it will thresh a bushel to the acre."

"What do you generally get per acre, Mr. W.?" said we.

"Well, if we get two bushels, it's first rate, and pays well, too. See, we get a crop of clover seed, which is worth eight dollars a bushel, and we do pretty well."

"Have't the grasshoppers hurt your late oats some?"

"Yes, pretty bad too, in some places; but I guess oats will be a pretty good crop after all."

"Are potatoes a good crop?"

"Only middling; not so good as we expected," said he.

"Didn't the bug hurt them?"

"No, hardly a bit. I think bugs are about played out. We just went over them once or so, and it seemed to use them up."

One day, in the home of one of our intelligent farmers, we saw a brand new map of the country.

"That's a beautiful map. What did it cost?" we said.

"Ten dollars. It seems a little dear, but I wouldn't be without it for twice the money."

"Did the agent sell many in the country?"

"No; he said he sold more of our country maps down in Durham (300 miles East), than he did in this country."

"Why, how was that?"

"Well, I suppose some of them think of coming West, and they can get land in Essex for half, or even third, what you'd have to pay for it there."

"Why, how is that? The land cannot be better than it is here. I have travelled a good deal in Ontario, and I am astonished at the depth and richness of your soil here. And then your climate is so much milder than in any other part of Canada. We must be fully one hundred miles South of Toronto, and being nearly surrounded with water, you have very little winter and frost to what they must have there. I never saw such fine fall corn as you grow in this country."

"And you have your orchards and your grapes. It seems to me it is the best country in Canada for grain and fruit. Why, then, should your land be so much cheaper?"

"Well, the French first settled it, and they have not much enterprise, and then the negroes came in here; and our lands are flat, and naturally were wet, till we got them ditched, and people got the idea it was a poor country. But they are beginning to find out now."

"What is land worth hereabouts?"

"Well, a good cleared farm, with buildings on, would bring forty dollars an acre, and some, perhaps, fifty; but plenty can be got cheaper. There is some of the Indian Reserve land not taken up yet, it might be got for five or ten dollars an acre, I suppose."

"You have no pine in Essex?"

"No; but we can get all the pine lumber we want, and pretty cheap, too; it comes from Georgian Bay. I bought some the other day for seven dollars a thousand, it was cheap, but was good enough for what I wanted. I got good for ten dollars. Then our Steamore and white wood makes capital wood for fences, &c."

Leaving our farming friends, come with us, Mr. Editor, to our Financial District Meeting. Its 5 a. m. of Sept. 11th. Day is just dawning, when we are seated in the magnificent coach of the C. S. R., our companion a junior minister.

"Is not this a splendid road? It seems the perfection of railroading," we said.

"It's the finest road in America. They have scarcely a curve or a grade upon it; and they make the fastest time on any line in Europe or America. They made the run from St. Thomas to Amherstburg, 109 miles, in 111 minutes, the other day; including a stoppage of four minutes at the Cross. That's more than a mile a minute, at least, so the *Detroit Free Press* says. And that is not the first time, either; they did nearly as well when Commodore Vanderbilt passed over it a few years ago."

"By the way, you succeeded capitally a year ago with your excursion to the Falls on this road."

"Yes, we cleared \$330. It is the best thing in the way of excursion that has been on the road; and it wonderfully helped our church enterprise."

"That was a big undertaking, to build so good and handsome a church in so new a place."

"Well, it was; but then we knew Essex Centre was bound to grow. It will be the county town yet. Four years ago there was not a house in this place, and now it is as thriving a village as there is on the line."

"What did your church cost?"

"I don't know exactly. I suppose not less than five thousand; and two years ago we had only one family who belonged to us; and now we have between fifty and sixty members, and our church is full every Sunday night."

Well, here we are, only half-past five, folks not up; four hours to the time yet. We had better go to some farmhouse for breakfast.

(Continued next week.)

### LOOKING TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

MR. EDITOR.

In a recent issue of the *WESLEYAN*, under the above caption, you intimated the prevalence of a somewhat general feeling in favor of the re-union of the N. S., and N. B. & P. E. I. Conferences. As an ardent advocate of the Confederation Scheme, we have watched the progress of events with considerable interest and are not a little surprised at such a proposal. No doubt the scheme is defective in many particulars and must and will be modified, but we hope we will not be guilty of such

child's play as is involved in the proposal we refer to. Every reason that was urged in favor of the division four years ago, can be urged with greater force to-day, and is growing stronger year by year.

One of the arguments adduced in favor of the union, and the organization of the General Conference, was the amount of work to be attended to at our annual gatherings. Conferences in the past were wont to drag their slow length along for 10 or 12 days, and important measures were unavoidably postponed from year to year for want of time. As Secretary of an institution of the Church, we were on two occasions, on the eleventh night of the session, reminded that the Report we had prepared by order of the previous Conference could not be considered but must lie over for another year. So much time was required that ministers were absent from their circuits for two Sabbaths and if our memory is not at fault, we have known Committees to be absent for three Sabbaths. Besides, how to accommodate such numbers was a serious matter. Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown and Fredericton alone were equal to the task, and the Superintendent in the latter place found great difficulty in finding homes for the Brethren, although Gibson, Merysville, St. Mary's and Douglas were called to the rescue. True, we had a Conference in Sackville, and another in Yarmouth, but the distance to be travelled morning, noon and night, was too much for many of us. Such places as Amherst, Windsor, Woodstock and St. Stephen, could not hope to have the honor and privilege of entertaining the Pastorate of the Church, but about every fourth year one of the above named great centres had to take us, however unwillingly, for at whatever inconvenience to themselves or to us.

All this was felt before Confederation, and various experiments were suggested or devised to meet the difficulty. One brother if we are not much mistaken gave notice of motion, at least suggested as a remedy, the propriety of limiting the numbers in attendance at any Conference, to what would to-day not represent one half the brethren in the habit of attending. Of course such a motion as that, if moved, would have been voted down as a little too conservative for the free air of America. A Legal Hundred may be a good thing in England, but a Sanhedrim would not be tolerated here. Another brother writing from a certain city where the Conference was to be held the following summer, broadly hinted through the *WESLEYAN* that Ministers wives had better wait for another four years before visiting the beautiful region in which he resided. The reason was the poor fellow was perfectly perplexed, and while his heart was large enough to wish all to come, he was unable to find homes for us unless we slept two or three of us in a room.

For this movement in favor of re-union there must be a reason. What is it? Will our Conference work be done better than it is now? Hardly. Will our Ministers be better provided for than at present? No. Will the money of the church be saved? We think not but otherwise, for as in the past so will it be again, men will be removed "regardless of expense" from Dan to Beersheba. Will our interests generally be promoted by this backward movement? We would like to see how. Would our influence in General Conference be greater? We think not. What then can be the reason.

We know not unless it be to make all the best Circuits of the two Conferences more easily available to a certain class of ministers. There is no disguising the fact that certain men have filled certain pulpits since the Union whose chances to have gotten them would have been small if one Stationing Committee had done the work. Not that they were unfit for the position, but for other reasons too obvious to require mention. Things are working well enough, let us not begin to tinker our constitution so soon. Give the younger men a chance, we have plenty of men in each Conference to fill any and all the pulpits therein, and if in the working out of the "Connexional principle," there arises the necessity for some city luminary to take a Country Circuit, a change of salary from the \$2,000 to the \$350 you spoke of in your last issue, and vice versa will enable each party to intelligently sympathize with the trials and sorrows of his brother.

Your's, truly, X. Y. Z.

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S WILL ARRIVE.  
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