

were no telegraphs, and mails were seldom, and postage a formidable tax. No wonder, therefore, if the annual gathering, or conveyance of the mounted companies of these warm-hearted men was looked forward to with desire and its arrival hailed with delight.

We have spoken of the pleasure of such annual assemblies, but the profit of them, conducted as the Methodist Conference is, must be incalculably great. The annual examination of character; the theological examinations of the candidates for ordination; the report made of every man's success, financial and pastoral; the earnest discussions that take place on study, preaching, pastoral fidelity, and the administration of discipline, with the spirit and meaning of our constitution and laws in general, must be very quickening and edifying to every member of the Body who has any susceptibility to learn.

The first Conference the writer attended, in 1830, could not have numbered more than thirty: now the number of ministers and preachers in the Connexion lacks but little of five hundred! What an increase! But while there is such a large influx of new elements, how few of the original ones are left! We noticed but four "effective" men who took a part in the Conference referred to, who were present at the late one. Drs. Ryerson and Green, and the Revs. R. Jones and J. Messmore. A few superannuated appeared—as W. Ryerson, Belton, Corson, Heyland, and A. Adams.

Although the difficulty of billeting so many men in any one town now restricts the number attending to about half the actual body, yet that seemed a formidable and respectable array. The gray hats and motley colored clothes of former years have given place to black in both cases. Some two hundred and fifty clergymen and laymen attending the Conference, and its Committees, were comfortably entertained, for the most part, in the families of the refined and wealthy Methodists of Brantford. Methodism, in this beautiful town, is very strong, considering its moderate size, about three hundred members being in society.

We have neither time nor space for going into the details, which were properly given in the weekly organ of the Connexion; but we may remark, in a general way, that this Conference was characterized by the kindness and fairness of the public discussions, and by the affectionate heartiness of private intercourse among its members. We never remember our brethren when they seemed so kind.

The religious services were of a very lively and profitable character; and the public reception of young men into the Connexion on the first Friday evening of the Conference, was unusually powerful and spiritual. The visit of several brethren from the United States, some of whom were celebrities, in their way, such as *Taylor*, the California street preacher;