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VOL. XXXI.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1879.

No. 30

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFER- ENCE.

The sessions were concluded on Friday,
July 4th. Considerable time was con-
sidered with the affairs of the Newfound-
land Methodist Day School Society. The
collections taken up on the circuits
supplemented by a special grant of \$900
from the Government, constitute the
funds of the Society which are appro-
priated to aid schools which are inade-
quately provided for by the regular
Government grant. Many schools are
considerably aided by the society.

The conversation on the work of God
was especially interesting. A public meet-
ing was convened, a synopsis of the relig-
ious state, reports from the Districts were
read, and short addresses given by several
of the ministers present. Most of the re-
ports spoke encouragingly of the spiri-
tual condition of our Societies. The Sec-
retary read a comparative statement
showing the progress which had been
made during the past four years—and the
increase of the past year. The number
of members reported is upwards of 7,000,
and the increase on the year upwards of
800.

A long debate took place on the relation
of the Children's Fund allowances—to
prevent circuit deficiencies, a motion was
submitted to the effect that the rate of
payment to ministers children be two-
thirds of the whole amount. The reason
for this motion being the fact that min-
isters on dependent circuits are only paid
at the rate of two-thirds of their salaries,
and some of the brethren have suffered
large deficiencies on their circuit assess-
ments. The motion was negatived by a
large majority. Rev. Charles Musgrave
gave notice of motion on the subject to
be submitted at the next annual Con-
ference.

The communications on the subject of
the Supernumerary Fund were considered
and debated on at considerable length.
The feeling of the Conference was almost
unanimous, and was expressed in a
motion to the effect—That in the opinion
of this Conference no change ought to be
made in the rate of payment to supernu-
meraries, and that any surplus of income
over expenditure should be added to the
capital stock.

The balance sheet of the Halifax Book
Room was read and commented on. A
vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. A.
W. Nicolson for his services as Editor and
Book Steward. Several brethren expressed
themselves as much dissatisfied with
the action of the General Conference in
appointing a separate Editor and Book
Steward, not reflecting on the brethren
appointed to these offices, but on the
ground of increased expense which was
thought to be inexpedient at the present
time. We hoped that the two offices would
be vested in one person as under the
previous arrangement.

Bro. G. H. Bryant who continues in a
most precarious state of health, was in
accordance with the recommendation of
his district, appointed to become a supernu-
merary. The President and Rev. W.
Swann were appointed a committee to re-
ceive aid in his behalf. His case is one
that appeals strongly to the sympathy
of the church.

The following resolutions of the Thank-
sgiving Fund Committee were submitted
to the Conference and adopted. We are
highly gratified as a Conference, with
the grand movement of our church in pro-
posing by the Thanksgiving Fund to wipe
out the debt of our Missionary Society, and
to aid certain Connexional Funds, with
the object of advancing our operations in
the extension of mission work and the
strengthening of existing missions. We
have however to lament that the present
difficulties of our people, occasioned by
the failure of our fisheries, and the finan-
cial embarrassment of our ministers do
not warrant a general canvass of our cir-
cuits, as such a canvass might result in
the failure of our appeal—or injury to our
annual missionary contributions. Never-
theless as we wish to show our sympathy
with this movement—the Conference re-
solves:—

1. That a public meeting shall be held in
all our circuits and missions to present the
claims of the Thanksgiving Fund to our
people, and that a collection be made at
that time for this fund; such meeting to
be arranged for at the convenience of
the superintendent ministers of circuits
and missions, and all monies to be sent to
Rev. J. S. Peach, treasurer, to be remitted
by him to the General Treasurer of the fund.

2. That three-fourths of the money ob-
tained be remitted to the General Treas-
urer of the fund, for the extinction of the
missionary debt, and the other one-fourth
to be retained for the aid of our Parson-
age Aid Fund.

The Conference has been throughout
one of great unanimity, and we doubt not
that the brethren will look back to it as a
happy and profitable gathering. We miss
from our gathering the venerable form
of father Shenton, who by his weakness and
increased infirmities was prevented from
associating with us in Conference. We
trust that God will bless his declining
years. We were pleased to hear incidentally
that he occupied the pulpit twice during

the absence of the Brigus minister. The
next Conference is appointed to be held
at Carbonear to commence on the fourth
Wednesday of June. next W. SWANN.

STATION SHEET.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.
REV. JAMES DOVE, President.
REV. CHARLES LADNER, Sec'y.

I.—ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT.

- 1 St John's—Job Shenton, Chas Ladner, George P Story; Thomas Fox, Supernumerary. G. S. Milligan, M.A., Superintendent of Day Schools by permission of Conference.
- 2 Burin—Solomon Matthews.
- 3 Grand Bank—Thomas Harris.
- 4 Fortune—Jabez Hill.
- 5 Petites—James Pincock.
- 6 Channel—Jesse Heyfield.
- 7 St Pierre—One wanted.
- 8 Fortune Bay—One wanted.
- 9 Flat Island—James Wilson.
- 10 Sound Islands—James Wilson.
- 11 Flower Cove—
- 12 St Anthony—R S Tratt.
- 13 Bunne Bay and Bay Islands—John Peters.
- 14 Labrador, Red Bay—J B Bonnell. JOB SHENTON, Chairman. CHARLES LADNER, Financial Sec'y.

II.—CARBONEAR DISTRICT.

- 15 Carbonear—George Boyd, Joseph A. Jackson; John S. Peach, Sup'y.
- 16 Harbour Grace—John Goodison.
- 17 Brigus—Joseph Pascoe; W E Shenton, Sup'y.
- 18 Cupids—John Reay.
- 19 Bay Roberts—F G Willey.
- 20 Black Head—Jas. Dove, President of Conference.
- 21 Western Bay—R W Freeman.
- 22 Island Cove—Thomas H James.
- 23 Old Perlican—William Swann; G H Bryant, Sup'y.
- 24 Hearts Harour—Charles Myers.
- 25 Port de Grave—One to be sent.
- 26 Hearts Content—Gorge Paine
- 27 Trinity—Anthony Hill
- 28 Ramdam North—Edgar Taylor.
- 29 Ramdam South—Thomas L Eland.
- 30 Green's Harbour—Henry C. Hatner. JAMES DOVE, Chairman. JOHN GOODISON, Financial Sec'y.

III.—BONA VISTA DISTRICT.

- 31 Bonavista—Jeremiah Embree.
- 32 Catalina—Joseph Parkins.
- 33 Green's Pond—Joseph Lister, George Vater.
- 34 Twillingate—Thomas W Atkinson.
- 35 Exploits—John Pratt.
- 36 Musgrave Town—Samuel Snowdon.
- 37 Musgrave Harbor—Robert Bramfit.
- 38 Fogo—George J Bond, B. A.
- 39 Herring Neck and Change Islands—W H Edyman.
- 40 Moreton's Harbour—James Nurse.
- 41 Little Bay Island—Wm. Jennings.
- 42 Betts Cove and Tilt Cove—James B. Heal, George Bullen. GEORGE J. BOND, B. A., Chairman. T. W. ATKINSON, Financial Sec'y.

NINEVEH.

In the earliest account of the settle-
ment of the earth by its various peoples
after the Deluge, we meet with the
name of Nineveh.

After recording the exploits of Nim-
rod, the 'mighty hunter before the
Lord,' the sacred writer goes on to say,
'Out of that land went forth Asshur,
and builded Nineveh, and the city Re-
hoboth, and Calah, and Resen between
Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great
city' (Gen. x. 11, 12). These verses
have given rise to considerable contro-
versy, as to both the person referred to
and the cities he built. 'That land,' is
'the land of Shiner,' and we may with
some confidence identify it with Mes-
opotamia, or the southern portion of it.

Asshur was a son of Shem (v. 22), and
he may have been driven from his pos-
sessions by Nimrod, and then become
the founder of Nineveh. So the trans-
lator of the English Bible understood
Moses' statement. But it may also be
rendered, 'Out of that land he (Nimrod)
went forth into Asshur, etc.'—i.e., in-
vaded Assyria, and founded cities there-

in. This interpretation accords better
with Assyrian traditions than the other.
Many expositors translate the last clause
of the twelfth verse, 'this is the great
city,' and suppose that it means that
the four cities, Nineveh, Rehoboth,
Calah, and Resen, formed together the
great city of Nineveh, just as with us
Marylebone, Southwark, Westminster,
etc., are compressed under the one name
of London. Others regard the four
places mentioned as separate towns, and
think they can trace their probable sites.
These very doubts remarkably fulfil
prophecy, as we shall see shortly.

However and by whomsoever found-
ed, there is no doubt that Nineveh grew
to be 'a great city,' with a very large
population. In the Book of Jonah its
extent is described as 'of three days'
journey, and it is said to have 'six score
thousand persons that cannot discern
between their right hand or their left
hand.' One hundred and twenty thou-
sand young children implies a popula-
tion of at least six hundred thousand.
Ancient heathen historians assert that
Nineveh was larger than Babylon. They
say, moreover, that it was built in the
form of a quadrangle; the two longer
sides measuring about twenty miles,
and the two shorter about twelve miles
each. This measurement would make
its circuit about sixty-four miles, a
sufficiently near approach to the sixty
miles represented by Jonah's three
days' journey. Mr. Layard's estimate
of the size of the city is precisely that
of Jonah. He gives for the longer
sides of the square eighteen miles, and
for the shorter twelve miles each, pre-
cisely sixty miles in all.

The extent of Nineveh is by no
means the only evidence of its impor-
tance. It was the capital of the mighty
Assyrian Empire, one of the five great
monarchies of the ancient world. The
excavations of Mr. Layard and others
have furnished abundant evidence of
its glory and grandeur. Vast palaces
and temples have been discovered,
guarded by huge stone bulls, winged
and human-headed. Innumerable in-
scriptions and bas-reliefs on pillar and
tablet, and brick, and stone, and wall,
tell of the victorious marches of the
Assyrian armies, of the battles they
won, the towns they took, and the
prisoners they captured. We see long
lines of slaves bearing tribute from
distant provinces, and kings and princes
supplicating the mercy of the mighty
monarch of Nineveh. The sculptures
represent the agriculture, the com-
merce, the manufactures, and the
amusements of the people; and show
the pomp and state of the court. Tra-
dition and history and remains com-
bine to testify of the wealth and mag-
nificence and power of the city and of
the empire of which it was the capital.

While Nineveh was at the very
summit of its prosperity, while it was
well-nigh undisputed mistress of the
known world, while the terrible con-
queror, Sennacherib, and the scarcely
less savage and skilful Shalmaneser,
were its lords, an obscure Hebrew,
Nahum, of the little village of El
Kosh, spoke the word of the Lord
against it, and predicted its utter
downfall and the manner of the over-
throw. He describes the marshal ar-
ray of its soldiery, their uniform of
'scarlet,' reminding us of the red coats
of the British infantry, the 'fire of
steel' that flashed from the scythes
with which the axes of the war-chariots
were armed, the mustering of its
hosts, and the thundering tramp of its
valiant men (ii. 3-4). But all this
strength shall be in vain; the doom of
the city has been pronounced, for As-
syria is the enemy of the God of Israel.
'Why do ye imagine mischief
against the Lord?' enquires the pro-
phet; and he declares Jehovah 'will
make an utter end: affliction shall not
rise up the second time' (i. 8).

It is quite possible that these words
refer to the siege of Jerusalem by Sen-
nacherib, and the awful judgment that
should overwhelm it—a judgment so
fearful that Assyria never again at-
tacked Jerusalem after the flower of
its troops had become 'dead corpses'
at the breath of the destroying angel.
Wonderfully significant is the silence
of the cylinders M. Lyard and M. Bot-
ta have brought to light. For sixteen
years they boast of the victories of
Sennacherib, and they tell even that
he shut up Hezekiah in Jerusalem like
a bird in a cage; but for eight years
there is no record of successful cam-
paigns; the power of the haughty
warrior had 'melted like snow at the
glance of the Lord.'

But such predictions as the follow-
ing can only relate to the final over-
throw of the city: 'With an over-
running flood He will make an end of
the place thereof. While they be fold-
en together as thorns, and while they
are drunken as drunkards, they shall
be devoured as stubble fully dry. And
the Lord hath given a commandment
concerning thee, that no more of thy
name be sown. I will make thy grave;
for thou art vile. The gates of the
rivers shall be opened, and the palace
shall be dissolved. Take ye the spoil
of silver, take the spoil of gold. She is
empty, and void, and waste. There
shall the fire devour thee. Thy crown-
ed are as the locusts, when the sun
arise they flee away, and their place
is not known where they were' (i. 8,
10, 13. ii. 6, 9, 10; iii. 15, 17).

In the prophecies just quoted two
points are worthy of special notice:
the mole of the fall of the city, and its
complete desolation. Side by side with
the predictions, let us place the wit-
ness of ancient historians and more
modern travellers.

Herodotus asserts the fact of their
capture by the Medes and Babylonians,
promising further details in a work
which he never wrote. The fullest ac-
count, however, comes from the pen of
Diodorus Siculus; it is brief, but per-
tinent and decisive. The Assyrian
monarch had gained considerable suc-
cess against his rebellious subjects,
and the coalition of Medes and Baby-
lonians was about to be dissolved. He
gave himself up to feasting, and his
example was followed by his army.
Drunkenness spread throughout the troops.
The sentries forsook their posts to join
in the general jollity. Meanwhile a wel-
come reinforcement had reached the
Median camp. Deserters carried intel-
ligence of the debauchery and careles-
ness to Arbaces, the rebel general. He
resolved to take advantage of it to as-
sault the city. Probably he would not
have succeeded but for another pre-
dicted occurrence. *Continual heavy
rains had swollen the river Tigris: it
overflowed its banks, and broke down
part of the battlements that defended
the city.* Through this providential
breach the Median soldiers pressed;
and Nineveh was in their hands.
Drunkenness and flood had fulfilled
the word of the Lord; now fire per-
formed its allotted task. An oracle had
said that the city should be impregna-
ble till the river became its enemy.
When the Assyrian king heard of the
flood and the attack, he remembered
the oracle and believed that all was
lost. Thereupon he 'built a large fun-
erary pile in the palace, and collecting
together all his wealth, and his concu-
bines and eunuchs, burnt himself.'
Such is the testimony of Diodorus,
who knew nothing of Nahum's prop-
hecy. The excavations confirm the
historian's statement: for, writes Mr.
Layard, 'The place had been destroyed
by fire. The alabaster slabs were
almost reduced to lime, and many of
them fell to pieces as soon as uncov-
ered. The places which others had oc-
cupied could only be traced by a thin
white deposit left by the burnt alaba-
ster upon the walls of sun-dried bricks.'
The fire must have spread widely, for
its traces were repeatedly found in
mounds distant from each other. Of
another place, Mr. Layard says, 'The
whole entrance was buried in charcoal,
and the fire which destroyed the build-
ing appears to have raged in this part
with extraordinary fury.' In the ruins
he found melted lead. And M. Botta,
at one time sceptical as to the evidence
of the work of the fire, admits of yet
another place, 'I must acknowledge
that I can no longer doubt that this
monument was destroyed by fire.'

Diodorus also states that the sack of
Nineveh greatly enriched the conquer-
ors, and that vast stores of treasures
were conveyed to Ecbatana. The sculp-
tures, too, prove that the city posses-
sed enormous riches.

Before adverting specimens of the
evidence—embarrassing by its quantity
that shows how perfectly the predic-
tions concerning the complete desola-
tion of Nineveh have been accomplish-
ed, let us read the utterances thereupon
of the prince-prophet Zephaniah:
we adopt the spirited version of Mr.
Cox:

"And He will stretch His hand over the north,
And destroy Assyria;
He will also make Nineveh a barren waste,
An arid waste, like the desert.
Wild beasts shall lie down in the midst of her,
Wild beasts of every kind in droves;
Pelicans and hedgehogs lodge on their capitals;
Birds sing from the windows;
Rubbish heaps lie on the thresholds,

For the cedar-work is laid bare.
This is the city, the exulting city, the impregnable
city,
Which said in her heart,
'I, and no other.'
How is she become a desolation,
A lair of wild beasts!
Every one that passeth by her shall hiss,
And swing his hand' (ii. 13-15).

See now how thoroughly the threaten-
ings of Nahum and Zephaniah were
performed. The earliest witness is the
prophet Ezekiel; and his testimony is
none the less striking because he too
was a prophet. So well known was
the destruction of the imperial city,
that he could refer to it as a thing of
the past (xxxii). The apocryphal Book
of Tobit also mentions it incidentally.
Two centuries after the destruction,
Xenophon marched, during the famous
retreat of the Ten Thousand, over its
site, noticed the ruins, but knew not
of what place they were the remains.
Lucia, who lived in the second century
of our era, affirms: 'Nineveh hath so
perished, that no vestige of it remains
at this time, nor can it be easily ascer-
tained where once it stood.' Gibbon,
describing the decisive battle between
Heraclius and Chosroes, which was
fought A. D. 627, says: 'Eastward of
the Tigris, at the end of the bridge of
Mosul, the great Nineveh had former-
ly been erected; the city, and even
the ruins of the city, had long since
disappeared; the vacant space afford-
ed a spacious field for the operations
of the two armies.' So completely had
the fame of Nineveh perished, that
men doubted whether it had stood on
the Euphrates or the Tigris. The
learned Niebur could pass by the
mounds which have so recently re-
vealed their secrets, and mistake them
for hills cast up by the hand of na-
ture. Well might the infidel Volvay
declare, 'The name of Nineveh seems
to be threatened with the same obli-
vion which has overtaken its greatness.'

Sir Arthur Shirley, an Englishman
who visited Assyria about the end of
the fourteenth century, records, 'Nine-
veh hath not one stone standing to
give memory of the being of a town.
One English mile from it is a place
called Mosul, a small thing, rather like
a witness of the other's mightiness and
God's judgment, than of any fashion of
magnificence in itself.'

Out of the many witnesses ready
with similar testimony, we select one
with strong claims to be heard who
has connected himself inseparably with
the re-discovery of Nineveh, Mr.—now
Sir Henry—Layard:

'It is, indeed, one of the most re-
markable facts in history, that the re-
cords of an empire so renowned for its
power and civilization should have
been entirely lost; and that the site of
a city as eminent for its splendour as
its extent should for ages have been
matter of doubt.'

He describes one of the mounds as
'a vast shapeless mass, then covered
with grass, and showing scarcely any
traces of the work of man, except
where the winter rains had formed
ravines down its almost perpendicular
sides, and had laid open the remains
of ancient walls. A few fragments of
pottery and inscribed bricks, discover-
ed after a careful search amongst the
rubbish which had accumulated round
the base of the great mound, served to
prove that it owed its construction to
the people who had founded the city
of which the mounds of Nimrod are
the remains.' Of another mound he
thus speaks: 'The spring rains had
clothed the mound with the richest
verdure, and the fertile meadows,
which stretched around it, were cover-
ed with flowers of every hue. Amidst
this luxuriant vegetation were partly
concealed a few fragments. Did not
these remain mark the nature of the
ruin, it might have been confounded
with a natural eminence.' And he
says of the traveller contemplating the
site of the ancient city: 'He is at a
loss to give any form to the rude
heaps upon which he is gazing. Those
of whose works they are the remains,
unlike the Roman and the Greek, have
left no visible traces of their civiliza-
tion or of their arts; their influence
has long since passed away. The
scene around is worthy of the ruin he
is contemplating; desolation meets de-
solation; a feeling of awe succeeds to
wonder; for there is nothing to relieve
the mind, to lead to hope, or to tell of
what has gone by.'

Do the prophecies concerning the
ruin of Nineveh need a more sugges-
tive commentary?—*Christian Mission-
ary.*

Pickard Rev 11, DD