Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1872

PASTORAL VISITATION.

Strong and reiterated complaints are made both in Britian and America of pastoral ineffectiveness on the part of the Methodist ministry. It is asserted in the most confident manner on both sides the Atlantic that very many Methodist ministers are strangely neglectful of the duty of pastoral visitation, and that in consequence they are far less useful than they might be, and the good cause much less prosperous than it ought to be. In England the complaints on this subject are increasing, and are sometimes expressed in a startling way. It was but a week or two ago that a gentleman, subscribing himself as "a Manchester Methodist," wrote to the London *Times* to say that he was one of a large number of steadily increasing nonconformists opposed to the disestablishment of the Episcopal Church on the ground that it would be a calamity to deprive the nation of the benefit resulting from having settled in every nook and corner of the land the family of an educated man accustomed in his pastoral capacity to visit rich and poor alike. Such a calamity he said would be but slightly mitigated by the pastoral labours of the nonconformist clergy, for even Methodist ministers were rather noted for their attention to the wealthier families belonging to their congregation than for their house-to-house visitation of the poor of their flock. Were the *Times* accustomed to be imposed upon or hoaxed by its correspondents, we should infer that it was an Anti-Methodist that wrote this letter. But as it is we are compelled to believe that its writer is a Manchester Methodist. Yet we are astonished that he should formulate his complaint against the ministry of his Church in the columns of the most influential secular journal in the world.. Methodist or no Methodist, we have no doubt, however, that his utterance exaggerates the facts of the case.

It is beyond question that the ministry of English Methodism contains men who are models of pastoral diligence and faithfulness. It is equally undeniable that many English Methodist ministers are not wanting in their belief in the importance of systematic, persevering pastoral visitation, and lament that the itinerant system is so worked in their case as to make it exceedingly difficult for them to attain pastoral efficiency out of the pulpit. Yet we fear there is some just ground for complaining on this matter. We fancy that very much more effective pastoral work might be accomplished by the English Methodist ministry than is attempted, and that arrangements in the distribution of Circuit labour might be easily made so as to render proper pastoral visitation more practicable than it is commonly found to be.

The complaints on this head made in America, if not quite so rife as in England are yet quite too loud and too frequent. There ought to be little ground for making them at all. In some cases, of course, the space traversed by ministers is too extensive to permit of the frequent visitation of each family under their care. But in Circuits of at least moderate dimensions, and in charges containing only one or two congregations of convenient size, no just cause for murmuring on this subject ought to exist. We gather that such cause does exist in many towns and cities in the United States, and we may add in British America also.

It is to be regretted that it is so. The importance of careful pastoral visitation as a means of promoting the interests of religion in societies and congregations, can scarcely be over-rated. It is our belief that thousands are lost to the Church on both sides of the Atlantic for want of the due performance of this duty. To a minister of mediocre pulpit capacity pastoral visitation furnishes the means for doubling his abilities and opportunities for usefulness. A minister of high pulpit efficiency will lose half the fruit of his public labors if he fails in the house to house department of his work.

We have never met with an objection of any weight or reasonableness justifying the neglect of this duty, so rich in its chances for good-doing. It may be plead indeed that a minister is timid and retiring, and finds it difficult to force his way to the fire sides of all sorts of people. A timid and nervous minister who under a sense of duty faces multitudes of people in public, and fearlessly declares to them the whole counsel of God, ought not to find it an insurmountable task to make his appearance among the families of his flock.

It may be urged that a minister has a constitutional distaste for pastoral visitation. The obligations that bind men to duty have no respect to their tastes or distastes. And in point of fact, ministers who have no natural love for the work of the duty in question have attained to remarkable proficiency in the performance of it.

It may be alledged that a minister has no aptitiudes such as would make pastoral visitation pleasant to himself and profitable to others. The consideration of his own pleasure is to be eliminated from the question. As to the other point, it may be without hesitation declared that this is one of the cases in which when there is a will, there is sure to be a way. No man even moderately fitted for pulpit work can possibly fail greatly in pastoral visitation if he undertakes it and prosecutes it with a conscientious and prayerful determination to do his best perservingly to achieve success in it.

It may be suggested that the necessities of pulpit preparation make it impossible in certain cases for ministers to pay much attention to pastoral visitation. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, such a suggestion would be nonsensical. Proper pulpit preparation is indeed not impeded or prevented by intelligent, regular, systematic pastoral visitation.

It is clear to us that it becomes the Methodism of both hemispheres to see to it that this most important matter be attended to with the most conscientious and diligent care.

J. R. N.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—October with its dull clouded skies, and copious showers is upon us. What a contrast with the same month of last year; when for days together the skies were hidden behind the thickest envelope of smoke and fog, and the sun struggled luridly to shed his beams upon the scorched land; when the atmosphere was so laden with the vapour of burning forests, villages and cities, that the eyes smarted, the tongue could almost taste an ashy flavour in the air we breathed. Not soon shall I forget some of those dark days—as for instance the Wednesday and Thursday after the burning of Chicago—when the Sunday School Convention of the two Provinces, was assembled in London. No mind could dissipate altogether the gloom which was associated with the cirumstances, and it was almost impossible to be cheerful even in company. It seemed to be the harbinger of a burning world—the presage of the days of the coming of the Son of Man. We have probably never had a wetter fall than this so far has been, and everything is giving indication of the early approach of winter. Already have one or two snow storms occurred, covering the landscape with its white mantle, and making it look, 'O, so winterly.' While a week ago last Sunday, suddenly a black cloud swept over us fraught with such hail and tempest as we never experienced before! It came in the middle of the afternoon and in one church I wot of, during the sermon, the sudden darkness, the rattling hail, the crashing of scores of panes of glass, and the roar of the tempest, produced a scene not easy to be forgotton.

A remarkable trial has just been concluded in London, viz. that of R. Coyle, a youth of about twenty years of age, charged with the awful crime of murder, but who after lying in jail for fifteen months has been acquitted, while no one doubts his real guiltiness as participator in the foulest act of murder which has ever been perpetrated in Western Canada. I refer to that of G. Campbell, for which his wife, Phœbe Campbell was justly hung in June last. I shall suppose your readers to be acquainted with the horrible details of the crime, and not make my sheet gory with any repetition of them. The judicial death of Mrs. Campbell was as remarkable as her deed of butchery was unnatural and inhuman. She professed to have found pardon. She went to the scaffold with the step and courage of a martyr. She declared the hour of her execution was the happiest she had ever experienced. She forgave and even thanked heartily her prosecutors and executioner, and with her last breath she acknowleged the justness of her sentence, and declared that Coyle was her accomplice, but she fully acquitted every one else, and then with a smile of joy on her features, she stept upon the fatal platform and was ushered into eternity, but the evidence has not been sufficient to convict her accomplice, and he is now again free, but with the awful brand of a murderer upon his character.

I am but little acquainted with the general news of the country, I became so disgusted with the Globe, that I was glad when my subscription expired, and it ceased to come. Its attacks upon Dr. Ryerson were so unmanly and capricious, it resorted to such mean methods to try to injure him, and have him removed from the office he has so long and so honorably occupied, and the ground of the antagonism was so apparent, that I could no longer endure a paper, whose chief Editor could so ill conceal his efforts to undermine Methodism. The *Mail* has disappointed us who wanted a calmer and somewhat dispassionate paper, which while it might consistently favour one party would yet avoid ultra views and abusive epithets, and could afford to be just and candid with political opponents, and we have no other good general papers. Thus there is a want yet in Canadian Journalism—which I hope the enterprising and good sense of our country will supply. The great Fairs of the West are over. There can be no question as to the utility of these gatherings to the agricultural and industrial interests of our country. On no other place can the real progress of our country be so quickly gaged, as on the grounds of a Good *Exhibition*. The beautifully fleeced sheep and lambs, those fine graded Essex and Berkshire pigs, those prime Durham and Hereford bulls and cattle, indicate a study and a research as well as a spirit of enterprise which do our farmers very high credit. While those beautiful horses, so finely formed in limb and so swift on foot, with that array of most handsome carriages of every description from the simple sulky to one fitted for a Governor's use, indicate a condition of road, and a state of civilization and progress truly wonderful, in a section where but fifty years ago, the only vehicle was the ox cart, and the only road a blaze through a forest. The benefit especially to our farming friends is not confined to the Exhibition. Nothing can be of greater advantage to them and their families than to drag their array from the narrow circle within which they are accustomed to see society and view the world. You may put the leg of a compass down at the door of many a farmer's house, and sweep the other round an area of fifteen miles and it has been his world, all his life, if you would enlarge his views, extend his sympathies, make him a better, because a more intelligent citizen, you must break through that circle, and let him rub shoulder with shoulder with men who have seen more of the world, and who hail from distant parts.

In church matters this is a *quiet time* but it is not the quiet of ease and idleness, but of earnestness and work. The brethren are too busy to write *much*. Nearly every circuit is a moral battlefield, and just now the lists are spread. The hosts are called out to fight. The field meeting of the warm summer Sabbath, the camp meetings of the autumn have given place to the protracted meeting. In these everywhere, the brethren are now engaging. Every once in a while comes up the shouts of victory and notes of triumph—but it is too soon yet to know the issue. May the God of battles make bare his glorious arm. We are all waiting with interest to hear the news from the committee on union. Report says that the deliberations have all been favorable. The basis is established, and the details harmoniously decided upon, and the prospect of union is growing still brighter. I trust that June next may see it consummated amid the shouts of rejoicing hearts. Anent of this subject, I did not mean in a former letter to say, as your printer represented me as saying, God has given to the bridegroom a nobler heritage, which was invidious—but a noble heritage.

Concerning the other body who propose to come into the union—the Methodist New Connexion Church of Canada, they are not a very strong but yet respectable member of the Methodist family. I have not a copy of their minutes by me—but from memory I state that they number in the two provinces about 8000 members, they have about 80 ministers and preachers, and they raise about $8000, or a little more for missions. All, or nearly all their circuits or stations are missions; they have moderate lay delegation, and are thoroughly loyal to Methodist doctrine. They are the organized fruit of the first separation from Canadian Methodism, which took place about the year 1824, under the leadership of the Revds. Messrs. Ryan and Jackson. What were the precise grounds of the disaffection of these persons does not now clearly appear. Edward Ryan had been one of the most indefatigable pioneers of Canadian Methodism, and at the time of the dissolution from American Methodism stood high as a most likely man for the Episcopacy in the newly organized Canadian Church, had it adopted that form of government; perhaps the disappointment had somewhat to do with his disaffection. After the painful agitation was over, the Ryanites or Jacksonites as they were indifferently called, organized themselves after the model of English New Connexionalism, and sought and obtained affiliated alliance with the Home body of that Church, which has been to them of the highest utility, supplying their pulpits with men of unquestionable ability and their missionary coffers with the means of maintaining and extending their operations. Still they are comparatively feeble, and show their wisdom by being willing to become an integral part of Confederated Canadian Wesleyan Methodism.

Since writing the above, our *Guardian* has arrived, and how replete with interest. You will doubtless give your readers full accounts of the annual meeting of the Missionary Society. Of the liberality there manifested—of the three thousand dollars given to inaugurate a mission school in Manitoba. Of the speeches and giving of John McDonald, Esq., and President Punshon. That the income of the Society has increased $10397.25 in one year, is of itself a fact full of significence. The proposal of John McDonald, Esq., to give $5.000 as an investment in the superannuated Minister's Fund, and increase it to $10.000 if the Church will raise $40.000, and so make a permanent investment of $50.000, is a fact that will cheer many a poor itinerant in his toil and anxiety, and tend to soothe many a widow's heart, borne down with poverty and care. God bless the giver.

What a power is our Missionary Committee becoming. But I must haste to a close, and leave much that I would say to another letter. I regret to learn that E. H. Dewart, Editor of the *Guardian*, and G. Cochran, pastor of the Metropolitan church of Toronto, are prostrated by severe and protracted illness.

Yours,
H. R. R. S.

Oct. 17, 1872.

Circuit Intelligence.

PORT MOUTON, OCT. 19th, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—I am happy to write cheering information from this Circuit, which for size is unparalleled. We have seven Churches and four other preaching places. The congregations are very good, and a growing religious interest is apparent. Our prayer meetings are generally well attended. God has been pleased to visit our part of this vineyard with the refreshing dews of his saving grace; six persons have testified that Jesus saves, and three backsliders are again enabled to rejoice in their once forsaken friend. We thank God for these "Drops of a shower," and are hoping "He will shortly pour all the fullness of his love."

The new Parsonage commenced by the late much esteemed Bro. Martin, is not yet completed, but we hope soon will be. The friends in Port Mouton have taken the lead in raising moneys toward liquidating the debt standing against the building, and the debt to be incurred in its completion. Last Thursday, the 17th inst., we had a Tea Meeting here; the day was remarkably fine and charming. Quite early in the afternoon the friends and visitors began gathering. The tables were covered with viands of the best quality and decorated with exquisite taste, reflecting great credit on our ladies. At 4 p. m., the doors were opened, and all heartily enjoyed the delicious repast. After tea refreshment tables were set, which in a short time were cleared of every thing soluble. About 10 o'clock the company broke up, after enjoying a very pleasant evening.

We find after paying all expenses that we have a clear profit of $156 towards the building fund. We are happy to say that a few of our young men are taking a lively interest in the Parsonage, and at their own expense provided one of the tables which cleared $36. Our thanks are due to a large number of the Liverpool friends who came to enjoy themselves with us at our Tea Meeting.

JESSE B. GILES.

UPHAM CIRCUIT.—DEAR EDITOR,—Missionary services were recently held on the Upham Circuit as near y as possible according to District arrangement. All the members of the Deputation were at their posts at the appointed time except one, who, finding it incompatible with the claims of his own Circuit to be present, sent a worthy representative in the person of brother Manaton, a local preacher of St. John. The first meeting was held at Titusville, the second at Passekeag, and the last at Hampton.

The Titusville meeting, at which James Smith, Esq., presided, was a very good one. The collection and subscriptions were in advance of those of the former year. The meeting at Passekeag was appointed to take place on Wednesday evening, but the weather proved so stormy that it was not held until the next day. The interest felt by the good people in that locality in the Home Mission work of our Church, was evinced by the number present at 3 o'clock on Thursday, notwithstanding the fact that notice of the meeting was only given during the forenoon, and that the farmers, in view of the glorious sunshine of that afternoon, might have found a reason for remaining at home to secure their potatoe crop already, it was claimed, considerably damaged by the recent rains. The subscriptions at this meeting were within a few dollars of the total amount for the whole Circuit last year.

At the closing (Hampton) meeting the Foreign and Home claims of the Mission enterprise were advocated, the former by the writer, and the latter lucidly and ably by the Rev. C. W. Dutcher, of Sussex Vale Circuit. Bro Manaton also spoke briefly. The chair was occupied by Wm. W. Wedderburn, Esq., M. P. P., who introduced the business of the meeting in a clear, earnest and eloquent commendation, to the sympathies and support of the large and intelligent congregation present, of Christian Missions in general, and of those of the Methodist Church in particular. The financial results at this, as at the other meetings, were encouragingly large.

Hampton having been recently elevated to the status of Shire-town of Kings County, should be graced at the earliest possible date by a Methodist Church, and made the head of a Circuit to include several of the rapidly rising settlements, near the line of the European and North American Railway, in its vicinity. The members and friends of the Methodist Church there would do well to take time by the forelock in regard to this matter.

Space fails, nor is it necessary to make mention in this note of the courtesy of the excellent Superintendent of the Circuit, Rev. J. B. Hemmeon, and of the kindness extended by several families to the members of the Deputation.

"The Lord grant unto" them "that" they "may find mercy of the Lord in that day."

D.

ANNIVERSARY OF GRAFTON STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The Annual Meeting in connection with the above anniversary was held in the Grafton Street Church, on Monday evening, Oct. 24th, presided over by the Rev. John Read, pastor of the Church.

After some remarks by the Chairman; Mr. S. H. Black, the Secretary, read the report, from which it appears that there are 230 Scholars on the books, with an average attendance of 156. During the year the school has suffered loss by death of Mr. W. L Bell, their late Superintendent; and two boys, who left a good testimony behind them. The Treasurer's report was then submitted by Hon. S. L. Shannon, which showed a small balance in hand.

The Chairman then called upon the Rev. Jas. Strothard, who delivered an address on "The Benefits arising from Sabbath Schools," dividing his subject into two parts—the benefit to the teacher and the benefit to the scholar. Mr Lloyd, one of the teachers of the School, after tracing his connection with Sabbath Schools, affectionately urged upon the children the great necessity of giving themselves to Jesus, showing the value of religion to them under every circumstance of life. An address was next delivered by the Rev. W. J. Johnson, on "The necessity of Sabbath Schools as an aid to church organization," who was followed by the Hon. S. L. Shannon, on the future prospects of the school.

Brief remarks were made by Rev. J. Hart, and the President of the Conference, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

MR. EDITOR,—Allow me to acknowledge through yours columns, the receipt of the following amounts, as the nucleus of a fund for providing a memorial stone for the late Rev. W. Wilson:—

J. H. Botterell, Esq., Montreal, Q.,	$2.00
Thos. B. Moore, Esq., Moncton, N. B.,	2.00
Mrs. Chapman, Dorchester,	2.50
Friends on the Parrsboro' Circuit, per Rev. D. B. Scott,	8.23
	$14 73

I trust that a more general response will shortly be made to my late appeal in behalf of the above object.

Yours, &c.,
JOS. G. ANGWIN.

Point de Bute, N. B., Oct. 22nd, 1872.

Miscellaneous.

ECCLESIASTICAL UNIONS.

There can be no doubt that one of the manifest tendencies of the times in which we live, is the disposition to unite bodies of people, whether for religious or political purposes. It seems to be regarded as a necessity both for the consolidation of power and the development of resources, either moral or material. To say nothing of European political confederations, it is clear that British America, by the principles of federation now in successful operation, is acting in accord with what we may designate in this instance the spirit of the age. Religious bodies are manifestly tending to union with due regard to existing rights, and this is now especially conspicuous in the present movement of the Wesleyan Methodists of Canada. There has been for some years past two conferences in British America, the one embracing Ontario and Quebec, and the other the Maritime Provinces. The Canada Conference has become a large and influential body of ministers, whose assembly in this city last June showed at least one thing, that for legislative purposes it had overgrown itself, and for other reasons it had become evident to most of those who were conversant with its operations, that it was necessary to divide the Conference into three or more and constitute a General Conference, whose business should be chiefly legislative.

But it appears from what we can learn, that a comprehensive scheme of government which should embrace the whole of British America was considered most desirable, and most likely to subserve the general and specific objects of this body of Christian workers. The subject was debated in the Montreal Conference, and the result was the appointment of a committee by the Conference to consider the question of the division of the Conference, and if the Conference of Eastern British America affirmed the principle of federation, and appointed a committee upon it, the two committees should meet and consider the whole subject. It appears, the Eastern Conference did at its session, held last July, affirm the principle and appoint a committee. The joint committees were called to meet in this city on the 17th inst. Accordingly, they assembled in the Dorchester street Wesleyan Church, and the whole subject of the division of the Conference and the confederation of Methodism has been under discussion during the last three days, and may be expected to continue for a few days more.

Of the gentlemen appointed by the Canada Conference, the following are present:—Rev. Dr. Punshon, Rev. J. Borland, Rev. Wm. Scott, Revds. Dr. Douglas, Dr. Rice, Dr. Green; Richard Jones, J. A. Williams, James Elliott, Alex. Sutherland, Dr. Nelles, G. R. Sanderson, E. B. Harper, E. B. Ryckman, W. Hansford, J. C. Slater, Dr. Fowler, and James Gray. The whole deputation from the Maritime Provinces is present:—The Rev. Drs. Pickard and Stewart, and Rev. Messrs. Currie, Pope, McMurray, Nicolson, Huestis, and Taylor, (P. E. I.)

We are glad to learn that the business of this large committee has thus far proceeded with the utmost harmony, and many difficulties which at first presented themselves have disappeared, and important general principles have received a cordial assent. It is understood that the Wesleyan Methodism of British America shall be so altered in the form of its government, as to be composed of several annual conferences and one general conference; that in fact the Canada Conference shall be divided into three, and the Maritime Provinces into two, reserving for future consideration the relation of some of the out-lying provinces. A preliminary agreement has been reached, whereby the three conferences of the west shall be designated and constituted in the following order: The Ontario Conference to embrace, the Toronto, Bradford, Barrie, Owen Sound, Whitby, Cobourg, Peterboro', and Belleville Districts. The Huron Conference to consist of the Hamilton, Niagara, Brantford, London, Chatham, Sarnia, Guelph and Goderich Districts. The St. Lawrence Conference to embrace the Montreal, Quebec, Stanstead, Brockville, Ottawa, Pembroke, Perth and Kingston Districts. The Nova Scotia Conference and the Conference of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, will probably be constituted by the action of the Conference to which this report will be referred

We understand the constitution of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference has been fully discussed, and general principles agreed on, which will most likely receive the assent of the Conference. In regard to the General Conference, we understand the subject of lay delegation has been very fully considered, as indeed its importance demanded. We do not give the exact terms of the resolution concurred in by the Committee, but we are safe in saying that the incorporation of the lay element in the general Conference will be effected on equitable principles, if the requisite majority of the people desire such incorporation. Into further details we do not deem it necessary or advisable to enter, our design being to present an outline of the proposed scheme of Wesleyan Confederation, and to express our appreciation of the motives which have actuated the Wesleyan Conferences in entertaining those plans of operation which, while they must prove beneficial to themselves, cannot be without lasting advantage to the Dominion of Canada. If some of the Methodist Societies separated from Wesleyanism should seek a closer union with the parent body, we are of opinion that it would ultimately prove profitable to all parties. We understand some proposals to this end have been made, and we trust there will arise no very serious obstacle to the project of accomplishing something like an organic union of the entire Methodism of British Ameirca.—*Montreal Gazette.*

THE MAIN QUESTION.

Now that the summer tourists are home from their wanderings and the ministers are again in their pulpits, and most of the familiar faces appear in the church and the chapel, it is a good time to "put the main question." What are these ministers and these churches trying to do? and are they doing it?

The convocation of the great Anglican Church assembled not long ago, and while it did not wholly neglect the main question, yet much of the greater portion of its time was spent in trying to find valid excuses for keeping in its ritual a certain form of words which can only be pronounced true by doing violence to the English language, and which admittedly conveys a false impression.

Not only the Roman Church and the Anglican Church, but all the rest of the Churches, whether more or less "catholic," are addicted to the same fault. In their synods, and their conferences, and their associations, they are wont to spend the larger part of their time in the adjustment of formalities and the settlement of side issues. The local churches as well as the provincial assemblies often find themselves dallying with details and forgetting the main question. How many pews are rented? Will there be a financial deficit at the end of the year? How does the new minister "take"? Can the families in the new brown-stone block around the corner be brought in? Are those who have come to us from Striker's enough to make up for the loss of those who have gone to Shricker's? How about the quarrel in the choir—is that composed? How do the congregations compare with those of a year ago? All these questions are more or less important, but they may all be answered satisfactorily without touching the real purpose of the Church, and the great work which it ought to be doing.

The main question for the Church to ask is: what are the results of our teachings and our labors in the characters of the men and women of our congregation and our neighborhood? How many are we reaching with our influence, and what are we doing for them? Are the people to whom our gospel goes, enriched by it in their affections, enlighted by it in their understandings, restrained by it from wrong, urged by it to righteousness? Is it proving itself the savor of life unto many? Is the truth as we have learned it, as we preach it, as we talk it, as we live it, the power of God unto the salvation of men from selfishness, from lust, from low cunning, from wrath and uncharitableness? Are the men who sit in our pews, pray in our prayer-meetings, and teach in our Sunday schools, known everywhere as true, brave, honest men? Are they surrounded with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, and does the spirit of Him who came bringing peace to earth and good will to men shine from their faces and breathe like a sweet fragrance from their garments as they walk? What sort of society is it which these Christians of ours, men and women, are building up? Is it a society in which simple tastes, generous aims, helpfulness and beneficence abound? Do the mean deceits and the shallow frivolities of the time flourish or decline among them?

Men and brethren! this is the main question. There are many ways of putting it, but it means only this: what is the effect of this religion of ours upon the men and women to whom it is preached? By their lives the world judges our religion. If we are helping them to a better manhood and womanhood, we shall need no other arguments to prove its truth. If we are not, all the evidences of Christianity that have been written will make no impression on the minds of our doubters. Would it not be well for the brethren who have risen to various points of order to withdraw them for a little while and let us all discuss the main question.—*Christian Union.*

THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY is now on a good financial basis The present income is $25,000, and in 1880 will be increased by seven per cent, of the landed stock of the great Pacific Hotel in Chicago Over half of that immense building is on University lots. The hotel is rapidly approaching completion, and is said to be the largest hotel in the world. It is truly an enormous structure.

Dr. Haven is abroad among the Conferences, and thus far has been received with the greatest cordiality. He will attend some six or eight this fall The three he has attended have expressed great confidence in the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and resolved to rally to the work of gathering funds. The doctor is confident that the entire Church will heartily cooperate in this great benevolent movement, and will in a few years raise a fund for the education of students creditable alike to the Church and the age. He has determined not to move his family, for the present, from their new commodious home fronting the University campus. Mrs. Haven is very content to remain here, and there is no absolute necessity for a man whose parish extends from Alaska to Texas, and from Maine to California, to take up his abode on the edge fringed by the Atlantic. The heart and centre of population is very near this meridian, and we are not praying for the shadow to go back on the dial, or the gromon to be removed.

Heck Hall is full to overflowing—the first time in the history of the new building. Every room even to the attic, is occupied; and at night, when the lamps are lighted, it makes a grand appearance from the street; and coupled with the outward appearance comes the fact that there are about one hundred students studying good, sound, heaven-born Arminian theology. The Garret Biblical Institute as thus represented is a grand fact, and made so by a strong, earnest faculty. Those men, when the fire came last fall and swept away their salary, and the entire income of the property, gathered in the potatoes from their gardens secured some flour for bread, and resolved not to quit the field. How they have fared, we could not learn. They are here, however salary or no salary.

But the Garrett building in Chicago, on the spot of the old Republican wigwam, is up again and ready for use In the unhappy struggle of the monumental giants Christ has had heroes. Orrington Lunt, Grand Goodrich, and others, have built and planned and worked for the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain. God bless them with a royal welcome up yonder, by and by.

The Evanston college for ladies is full to overflowing "The tidal wave" of education seems to run high this fall, and in fact this "Athens of the West" was never so popular as now.—*Com. to Zion's Herald*

HUNGARIAN FAIRS.

The four annual fairs held at Pesth, though they have declined of late, are of much importance, and supply half of Hungary with their commodities, sold or exchanged for honey, hides, wool, wax, and slibowitza, a species of brandy prepared from plums, and fully as fiery as the Russian vodka. On these occasions the peasants flock in from every part of the kingdom, and in their varied and striking costumes make fine subjects for the artist's pencil. Many of them look as if they might have stepped out of the fourteenth or fifteenth century; for they have anything but a modern appearance, attired in their strange garb, frequently wearing leather jerkins and undressed skins. They are very light-hearted and merry, as a rule, and dance and sing, laugh and love, tipple and quarrel after the manner of contemporaneous Irishmen. They give a foreigner a far better insight into the national character than do those in the upper ranks of life. They are ignorant and, for the most part, superstitious; but they are sturdy and independent and exceedingly patriotic, holding that God created Hungary, and that it matters very little who is responsible for the remainder of the world. They delight to ride on horseback, being very skillful equestrians, and scamper over the broad plain like Bedouins of the desert. Both sexes take part in this recreation, and I have often seen a man and woman dashing frantically along on the back of one steed, who, when weary of carrying them, would kick them off, and they would roll in the dust with superabundant satisfaction. They teach their horses all manner of tricks, especially that of unseating their rider, and this part of the equine education is grotesquely displayed at the fairs. The peasants lay wagers with each other as to their ability to stick to the back of a brilliantly performing animal in spite of all his efforts in the line of burlesque and low comedy. The contest of the man to stay on, and of the beast to put him off, is side-cracking sport for the yokels, who awake the echoes with their shouts and boisterous laughter. The horseman is so adroit and supple of limb that even when thrown he is seldom seriously hurt. He is a natural acrobat, apparently, and thumps and falls which would break the limbs or neck of any German merely increases his jollity, and afford a new opportunity for the manifestation of his agility.

At the fairs one can see how primitive the habits of the common people are, how limited their wants. They prepare their food like gypsies, wrap themselves in their blankets or sheep-skin coats, and sleep on the ground or under their stalls or wagons more serenely and soundly than their lords and masters do under silken canopies on beds of daintest down. The earth literally serves them for a couch, and the sky for a roof; the native elements are their best friends; their rugged constitutions and hard hands their stoutest allies and firmest supporters. Modern refinements and luxuries have in nowise effeminated them as a race; they are as intrepid and hardy as when they fought against Soliman the Magnificent and fell with Tokolyi.

The convocation at the fairs is diversified enough. In addition to the Hungarian there are Greeks, Servians, Jews, Wallachians, Bohemians, Croats, Sclavonians, Moldavians and Turks. But even these may be considered part of the native population, as the origin and composition of the Magyars has always been an open and unsolved question with ethnologists. They have been pronounced Avars, Mongolians Tartars, Finns, Osmanlis, Calmucks, and Olympus knows not what!—From "Down the Danube," by JUNIUS HENRI BROWN, in *Harper's Magazine for November.*

A PAN-ANGLIAN IDEA.

Commerce, the London *Daily Telegraph* assures us, is the greatest of all politicians, and the real history maker of the present age. We have been lately discussing the grand idea of a federation between the English speaking people of the globe—an idea still far from realization perhaps, but no longer beyond the range of statesmanship, when we behold such events as the Arbitration at Geneva, and the revival of a nobler policy with regard to Great Britain's colonies than the old ignorant indifferentism. Yet there was one link in that golden chain of Pan-Anglian alliance which seemed difficult to forge. England and America are naturally connected, but how could a closer relationship be established between our dependencies and the great Republic? Commerce is silently taken charge of this portion of the problem; America and Australia are reaching out their hands to each other by the new broad way of the Pacific. A trade is springing up between the young empires at the Antipodes and the western coast of the United States. Out of forty vessels which sailed during two months from the ports of Austrialia, New Zealand and Fiji, two-thirds were cleared for San Francisco and the Pacific sea-board In addition to this, the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales has lately agreed to aid in the establishment of a line of mail steamers to the Californian metropolis. These are most significant facts; they point to the indubitable uprise of a vast traffic between the Republic and the English colonies, which will develop as the great silent ocean becomes more and more the "new Atlantic" of the world's business. Japan, China and the East will take a larger and larger part in the intercourse; but the *Telegraph* ventures to predict that the Anglo-Saxon race will have the Pacific trade as much in their hands as that of the older seas has been; and when statesmanship is ripe for the splendid realization of an Anglian League, the links which should bind the other ends of the world-embracing girdle will be found ready made to its hand.

In the whole history of science there is nothing more wonderful than the discovery or invention (it would be difficult to say which is the more correct term) of spectrum analysis. Thirteen years ago it had no existence whatever as a mode of scientific inquiry. Not five years had passed from the day when Kirchoff announced the true meaning of the dark lines in the solar spectrum before Huygens and Miller were telling astronomers of the terrestrial elements existing in the stars. Then the great secret of the gaseous nebulæ was revealed by Huygens, and soon after the structure of comets began to be interpreted. The importance of the new mode of research in all problems of chemical analysis, as a delicate test for determining the presence of poisons, as a means of improving many processes of manufacture, and as an aid in almost every branch of scientific inquiry, became each year more clearly recognized. We have seen Sorby analyzing by its means the coloring matter of plants, and the entomologist comparing the spectrum of the worm and the fire-fly. The microscopist employs the powers of the new analysis to solve problems which the magnifying powers of his instruments would be altogether unable to cope with. Nothing, in fine, seems too vast or too minute, too distant or too near at hand, for this wonderful instrument of research, which deals as readily with the mass of Sirius, a thousand times larger and a million times further away than our sun, as with the ten thousandth part of a grain of matter in a flame within a few inches of the spectroscopic tube.—*Spectator.*

General Intelligence.

Mackerel are plentiful. Between 4000 and 5000 barrels were caught at Ferguson's Cove on Tuesday.

WESLEYAN BAZAAR.—The receipts at the Wesleyan Bazaar, Amherst, on Thursday last, were about $300.

Oxford, Cumberland Co., offers a bonus of $1000 to any manufacturing enterprise starting there which employs $5000 capital or upwards.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.—The Missing Link on the Intercolonial Railway, in Nova Scotia, was completed on Saturday, 19th, when a train passed over the road from Truro to Amherst.

SNOW.—Sufficient snow fell in King's Co., N. B., on Sunday, to whiten the ground on some of the hills. Vinegar Hill, about two or three miles S. E. of Apohaqui Station, was still white on Monday morning.

We are gratified to be able to state, on the authority of the Hon. Dr. Tupper, C. B., what we are sure will also greatly delight our readers, that Lord Dufferin intends her after to make Halifax his summer residence.—*Col.*

HALIFAX BANK.—The first meeting of the Halifax Banking Company, since its incorporation by Act of the Legislature, under the name of the "Halifax Bank," was held in Argyle Hall, on Tuesday. The following gentlemen were elected Directors: B. H. Collins, Wm. Pryor, P. C. Hill, W. M. Harrington, John Stairs, Thomas Bayne, and Robie Uniacke. At a meeting of the Directors held in the Banking-house yesterday afternoon, W. Pryor, Esq., was elected President.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.—The matriculation examinations of Dalhousie College have just been completed. About 20 new students have entered. Messrs. Frederick O'Brien, of Maitland, and Francis H. Bell, of Halifax, won the "open scholarships," entitling them to free admission to all classes for the next four years. This is the first time one of the scholarships has fallen to Halifax. The formal opening of the Winter session of the College will take place in Argyle Hall on Tuesday, at 3 p.m.—*Chron.*

A GIGANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—Some idea of the extensive ramifications of the Western Union Telegraph Company, which operates most of the lines in the Lower Provinces, may be obtained when we state that the company gives employment to 8,500 persons. The company has 5,800 offices and about 140,000 miles of wire. Twelve and a half millions of messages pass over the company's lines yearly. The gross receipts for the year ending June 30 were $8,457,595, giving a net profit of $2,790,232. The company is now building a new line along the Intercolonial Railway, between Amherst and Truro, N. S. It has spent over $10,000,000 in the construction of new lines in the States and Provinces.—*St. John Tel.*

THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Lewis Carvell, the newly appointed Railway Superintendent arrived in this city on Friday. On Saturday morning he left in company with Mr. George Taylor, the present Superintendent, for Moncton, N. B., where Mr. Taylor is to be stationed as Traffic Superintendent. The offices of the Railway Department in this city will shortly be removed to Moncton, which is to be the railway headquarters for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Halifax becoming an ordinary station. Mr. David Pottinger, at present cashier in the general office, will be appointed Station Master at Halifax at a salary of $1200 per annum. Mr. Arthur Busby, at present in the freight office will be Station Master at Truro—probably at the same salary as Mr. Pottinger. These changes have not been officially announced but they are likely to be correct.—*Chron.*

SAD DEATH.—The Kentville "Star" reports that Judah Wells, an old resident of East Cornwallis, left home on Saturday the 19th inst., (his birthday) to visit some friends. The afternoon proved stormy and he did not reach home, but no concern was felt, nor was he looked after by any of the family, as they thought he would stay with some relative. The next morning (Sunday 20th) he was discovered about a mile and a half from his residence, lying dead by the roadside, where he had fallen and died, apparently, from exhaustion, and the effect of an ailment of the abdomen irritated by walking and exposure in the storm, on his return. He had walked about five miles from home and back again to where he was found.

In a previous number we intimated that the Wesleyans of Bedeque had determined to erect a Parsonage in the vicinity of Centerville. In order to provide funds for that purpose a Social tea was held in the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last, which was numerously attended by the members of the church and and their families. After the good things provided by the ladies had received ample attention, the Rev. J. S Phinney was called to the Chair, and the real business of the meeting commenced, preceeded by singing and prayer. The Chairman referred to the previous meetings of the Building Committee and the progress of the matter. The Hon. W. G. Strong spoke in relation to the estimated cost of the building and the method proposed for raising the necessary funds. A subscription list was then opened, and in a short time the handsome sum of (£715) seven hundred and fifteen pounds was promised. The Chairman and the Rev. J. C. Berrie, complimented the friends on their liberality, and a vote of thanks having been rendered to the ladies for their excellent tea, the proceedings terminated.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF WORK ON THE ST. PAUL AND PACIFIC BRANCHES.—We have refrained from alluding to the fact that orders have been issued for the temporary suspension of work on the branch lines of the St. Paul and Pacific, for the reason that for the last day or two the President of that Company, Mr. Becker, was in hourly expectation of receiving advices from Europe which would make such an announcement premature. It was confidently expected yesterday that the order for this temporary discontinuance of the work on these roads would be revoked; but as we have not been advised before going to press that this has been done, we can see no further reason for postponing the announcement that the work on these roads has been discontinued, probably