Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1873.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

The year 1872 is gone. Though not one of the most memorable periods of the world's history, it has yet left behind it many painful and some interesting recollections.

It was a year of marked atmospheric disturbance in northern temperate climates. Tempests of tropical violence raged again and again over a large portion of earth and sea in the northern hemisphere. These wrought some mischief on land, but more on the sea. Many gallant barks went down in the fierce conflict or were swept to destruction by pitiless blasts on storm-beaten shores; and a large number of human beings thus found a watery grave.

In the earlier portion of the year the snow-fall was an unusually heavy one; and in the latter, the rainfall. By the one railway communication over a wide area was impeded. By the other destructive inundations were brought about, which in several European countries damaged a vast amount of property, and caused some loss of life. The year was signalized by the occurrence of some dreadful fires. The Boston fire was grand and terrible enough to take a respectable position in the ranks of the world's great civic conflagrations. Some large steamships at sea or in harbors perished by fire in a manner peculiarly distressing.

In some portions of Europe and Asia the cholera committed great ravages, though it did not spread during the year nearly as rapidly as was anticipated by high sanitary authorities.

In a military point of view, the year was one of the quietest known to human annals. Nowhere did any fighting take place worthy the name of war, though of course there were "risings" in Spain, bloody butcheries in Cuba, strivings for the mastery in some Spanish American States, and some Russian military movements in Central Asia.

The chief international events of the year were the German arbitration, the San Juan arbitration, and the meeting of the Emperors at Berlin. By the latter, the peace of Continental Europe was assured for a time; and by the former, certain dangerous disputes between Britain and the United States were terminated.

The important political events of the year were neither numerous nor, except in two or three instances, very striking. The most remarkable took place in Germany, where Bismarck grappled with the Jesuits, took steps to rescue public education from clerical control, and immensely diminish the power of the Prussian aristocracy in the management of local affairs.

The re-election of General Grant to the Presidency of the United States was a notable, though by no means an astonishing event.

The great financial feat of 1872 was the calling forth by President Thiers of the most astounding subscription to a public loan noticed in the record of financial operations.

Perhaps the chief sensation of the year was that in which Mr. Stanley of the New York *Herald*, the finder of Livingstone, cut so sprightly a figure. Far and wide throughout the civilized world, Mr. Stanley's story excited interest and afforded pleasure. He is no doubt of the *genus* termed Bohemian, but for all that he in the main did a good work, and good will come of it.

The circumstance that most deeply touched the British heart during 1872 was the perilous illness of the Prince of Wales. That was an event that evoked a wonderful display of loyal sympathy in every section of the British Empire.

Much social disquietude prevailed in Britain during the year just gone. The sadly perplexing labour and capital problem was brought into greater prominence than ever, and seemed as far as ever from a satisfactory solution. There were strikes in almost every direction with and without reason. But the most significant of them all was the strike among the farm labourers in some of the English Counties. These labour troubles were not confined to Britain. They prevailed over a large portion of continental Europe, and they operated disastrously in the United States.

As might have been expected, many men of note in various departments of effort passed away in 1872. But we are not aware that the death of any of them will have an appreciable effect upon the course of affairs anywhere. They were mostly men who had accomplished their life-work or whose vacant places it was not difficult to refill.

We need not refer to the various circumstances that marked the individual experiences of *Provincial Wesleyan* readers in the year just past. We need not recall the blessings vouchsafed, or the trials undergone—the bereavements suffered, the pains endured, the temptations passed through. Nor need we remark on the design of the discipline administered or the lessons taught by the great Master. All these have within a few hours been expatiated upon from a hundred pulpits within our conferential bounds.

We rather felicitate our friends on the fact of their entrance on a new year, which though it may bring sorrow to many, will be found freighted with joys and joyful possibilities for all. For the present we shall content ourselves with wishing every one of them a most Happy New Year.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR EDITOR,—There can be no question now as to whether it is winter or not. With two feet of snow upon the level, with keen biting winds from the west, with a thermometer at about 20° day and night; and having reached the winter solstice, if it is not winter, then I don't know what winter is. Yet it has hitherto been very pleasant and very profitable winter weather. The sleighing is excellent our farmers and are taking full advantage of it. The crowded state of the main roads to London is a strong argument in favor of increased railroad communication between that city and the townships lying north of it. Three leading cities are competing for the trade of these north western townships of Ontario. Toronto, the most wealthy and energetic of our western cities, is pushing her railroad system in every direction, and endeavouring to make herself the heart of the railroad system of the province. She has however a powerful rival in Hamilton, already the head centre of the great Western Rail Road, and all its feeders. This company is greatly enlarging its system; building at the present time some five or six new lines, some of them are quite lengthy. London feels the same necessity of exerting herself in the same direction, and has projected an important new line to the north. The Great Western has accepted the bonds of the new company, has surveyed the route, and will commence the work in the spring or summer. Each of these cities will then have separate roads running through the new townships of Grey and Bruce Counties.

Our Wesleyan friends, well satisfied with the success which has attended the Female College in Hamilton, are now projecting a Seminary for boys, in the adjoining town of *Dundas*. A most beautiful and eligible house and situation are offered them; I know of no other situation so much so. It is the private mansion of a gentleman who has met with some reverses, but which he built when in the very zenith of his prosperity. On the side of what the Hamiltonians proudly call "the Mountain," it commands a magnificent view of hill and valley, and Dundas at its feet, and of Hamilton in the distance, and of the ever beautiful blue Ontario. There certainly seems to be a special providence in the opportunity of procuring such suitable premises. Of course, Dr. Rice, ever foremost in every good movement which relates to Wesleyan education, is the leading man in the scheme, and with his experience and enterprize and forethought, there can be no question of its success. The premises are offered for ten thousand dollars there are 10½ acres of land with the mansion. The Committee propose to raise $25,000, in fifty dollar shares, to add a wing to the mansion to fit it to receive eighty pupils. Dundas is a pleasantly located town of about 3000 inhabitants, five miles from Hamilton. It frequently goes by the name of the Valley City, from its situation lying in a valley surrounded on three sides by the not very lofty mountain range which skirts the southern shore of Lake Ontario. At one time it rivalled Hamilton, but of late years has struggled to maintain even its present respectful distance. It has good water privileges, and is somewhat noted for its manufacturing industries. It was in this town that the first Wesleyan Female College started, under Mr. McGonegal, now of New York, which the Hamilton College superseded. It was near here too that that terrible and most fatal of all Canadian railway accidents took place in the year 1857, at the Des Jardin's canal, when ninety persons were hurried into eternity, among them many of our most prominent men.

Our Missionary Anniversaries are now in full blast. 'Excelsior' is our motto. With a report in our hands of $91,930 of voluntary contributions received during the past year, we confidently hope to roll up the sum to more than the round $100,000 during the present year. A mission to Japan will stimulate many to increased liberality. Already has Kingston given the key note of what the next year's results will be. Over and above her usual contributions of eleven hundred dollars, she promises eight hundred for Japan. Surely if the other cities follow in the same spirit, the Japan mission will not be a myth. "Japan for Jesus" will be a noble and worthy motto for the two great Methodist Churches of America to adopt. That enterprizing race once won over to Christianity will probably do more to advance the Redeemer's kingdom throughout Asia than any other people.

A somewhat painful personal discussion has lately been occupying a good deal of public attention in Ontario. It has reference to Rev. Mr. King, of Buxton, a Free Church Missionary, and the Hon. Mr. McKellar. As to the merits of the points in discussion I am utterly unable to speak. It has assumed a political aspect. The conservative papers branding Messrs. King and McKellar, and the reform papers defending them. With Mr. King I have been personally acquainted for many years. A student under the late Dr. Chalmers he came to America many years ago, and settled in Louisiana, where he obtained a professorship, and what he valued more highly, the heart of a planter's fair daughter. Marriage followed, and in due time he inherited his wife's property, which consisted not only of real estate but a number of slaves. Desirous of liberating the latter he found the laws of the State of such a nature that in order to carry out his purpose he was obliged to leave the State, and take his human chattels with him. This he did and came to Canada. He then entered into arrangements with the Government for the purchase of several thousand acres of land upon easy terms, payable, I think, in two years; and upon them he commenced Brixton settlement for escaped slaves. His own liberated slaves became the nucleus, and an extensive colored settlement formed around him. To these he became a sort of patriarch, living in their midst, and transacting much of their business; he opened schools among them, became their missionary, erected a saw mill, constructed a wharf, and threw his whole soul and energy into the work—or experiment of showing the capability of the colored man becoming a self-supporting and self dependent citizen. Innumerable were the trials, difficulties and labors which he had to endure; partial if not complete success crowned his labors. His patriarchal residence at Brixton, near Chatham, was frequently visited by leading statesmen and by eminent tourists. His name and work became widely known in Britain as well as through Canada; and he seemed about to enter upon a period of well merited "*otium cum dignitate*," when the political press directed their attacks against him, and have tried to find in his transactions between he government and the colored settlers some grounds for aspersing both his own character and that of the Hon. Mr. McKellar. Mr. King is the Othell in Mrs. Stowe's celebrated novel, "Dred, or a Tale of the dismal Swamp."

Our Missionary Society is now rapidly approaching its Jubilee year. The last report is styled the *Forty-eighth*, and it is proposed to celebrate the Jubilee between the 28th August, 1873, and the same date in 1874. This is one year earlier than most of us had expected, but an awkward discrepancy had occurred between the age of the Society and the annual reports since 1831, when two years had been reported together, and credit only given for one year.

Your, &c.,

H. R. R. S.

THE MOUNT ALLISON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

MR. EDITOR.—Circumstances recently made it possible for us to gratify a long cherished desire, viz, to revisit Sackville where five years of student life were spent. Eight years had passed away since we went forth from those halls of learning to engage in new duties and assume higher responsibilities. But during all those years, and amid multiplied changes, Sackville and its memories have held a sacred place in our affections. Our recent visit was one of peculiar gratification and pleasure. For company we had Bro. Brown of Pictou, whose presence in no small degree heightened our enjoyments. The mode of travel in '72 contrasts strongly with that of '59 when first we visited Sackville. Then a stage coach of very ordinary pretensions conveyed us from Amherst leaving the latter place somewhere about the "wee sma hour" and discharged us at the Institutions at an unseemly hour to waken the sleeping inmates. We had time therefore to survey the "campus' and surroundings and yield ourselves up the feelings of awe and veneration which crept over us, and prepared us to do obeisance even to the Servant Man, who in response to our repeated summons, rose to admit us. Those days have passed, changes have taken place in us, and changes were marked in all our progress towards Sackville. Obedient to the spirit of the age, Railroads are intersecting the country and bringing near to each other places once remote and separate. Hence we are now enabled after a somewhat early breakfast to leave the Station at Stellarton and be in Sackville long in advance of the hour for Tea.

On reaching the Sackville Station we were met by the Professor of Theology, who took us in charge and made us his debtors for kindness shown. How the old boyish enthusiasm returned as we drove along and passed one familiar spot after another.

But the presence of two such eminent and staid Divines exerted a wholesome restraint upon our emotions, and rendered our behaviour somewhat more decorous than perhaps it might otherwise have been. We cannot describe in sober language what we saw, heard, did during the two days spent in Sackville. Our feelings run away with our senses.

The Ladies Academy stands upon its former eminence and is externally the same as when we knew it in olden days. But the other Academy, which is not the other,—no here we see a marked change. The building rises beautiful in its proportions and imposing in its appearance, its internal arrangements, doubtless better adapted to meet the design of its construction, but it is not the academy in which we formed so many pleasant Associations, that has gone. But to the credit of the Methodist people in these provinces, be it said, the later structure is in all respects the peer of its predecessor. Long may it stand, as a proud monument to your own energy and perseverance, Mr. Editor, and nobly may it accomplish its destiny. Ever may its halls be filled and may scores and hundreds go forth therefrom with the literary equipments for a useful and honorable life. The College next demands attention. Are we right or is our memory at fault? Yes, No That Portico we do not remember to have seen before but it certainly adds to the appearance of the building. Ah! the "Euthetorian" boys have put it there.

Well done! old Euthetorian. May the spirit that prompted them to this work of adornment, grow stronger with the lapse of time and incite to yet nobler achievements in the year to come.

Shall we tell your readers Mr. Editor, how after inspecting the Academy, we hastened over to the College and opened one door after another and at length bolted unceremoniously into the room occupied first by us and which we regarded our sanctum.

No, Mr. Editor, we will make mention of none of these things, they might belie our manhood or something worse. As a matter of course, the students of our day have all left and are dispersed to the ends of the Earth. We scanned students' faces but for the most part there was no recognition.

Two, now well grown to Manhood, and prosecuting their college course we remembered as pupils of our own when we filled the office of Pedagogue. Their present physical dimensions and intellectual attainments, cast a sober hue on our thoughts and feelings, by reminding us that we may expect gray hairs ere long. Among the officers are some familiar faces. President Allison, looks little if any older and retains the geniality of other days. We wonder not that he has so strongly intrenched himself in the affections of the "Boys." Professor Inch presides with urbanity and success over the Female Academy, but we were sorry to find our old friend presenting some of the indications of approaching age. But perhaps he does not know it, for in his feelings and movements he is youthful still. Pray Mr. Editor say nothing about it. Vice Principal Mellish we knew in his student days and glad we are to see him installed in so honorable a position. It was a source of gratification to find the College and Male Academy *filled* with students. At the Female Institution there is at present a large attendance, though by reason of its more ample accommodation there is still room, and no young gentleman or lady need seek admittance at either the College or Academies in vain. We wish all our Ministers and people could visit Sackville and inspect its Institutions, we are sure their interest in the endowment Fund would be heightened, and instead of allowing it to drag its slow length along, would hasten it to a speedy and glorious consummation to wit, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Now Friends of Methodism make Sackville and the "Endowment Fund" your watch-word and provide a rich heritage for the rising generation in our church. There is other work to be done and the responsibility of doing it lies at the door of the church. We are not sure but the *Conference* should effect a change in its policy, from a sense of justice to Dr. Stewart, the students under his care and the people whom they are being trained to serve. Let not our Theological Students be under graduates, for such are already sufficiently burthened with studies in the arts department. Encourage them to *complete* their Collegiate studies and then take two, three and four years in Theological study and let year answer for year on the ordinary probation. Grand, Sir, as you know and feel, is the history of our Institutions of learning, and no Methodist in Eastern British America, who has contributed his quota to their support and extension need be ashamed of their record.

But grand as their past history has been, their future is destined to be much more glorious. Oh, how we wish that endowment scheme was completed, for then we fancy we would see another edifice rising on some suitable site and giving additional beauty and completeness to the Institutions of Mount Allison. Already the need is felt; And we hope ere many years elapse to see a three storied stone building erected to supersede that now known as the College.

Could we catch the ears of hundreds of young men in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, who may read this article, we would say, by all means put in at least three years at Sackville.

A. D. M.

ITEM.—The new and beautiful Presbyterian church (U. S.) of Westville was burnt down on Sunday Evening last. No insurance. Cause of fire, a defective flue.

LETTER FROM BATHURST, N. B.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—A sad occurrence took place here on the morning of Saturday Dec. 14, about 4 o'clock. The office of Mr. End, a lawyer and police magistrate was fired by incendiaries and he perished in the flames. Being aroused by the light of his burning office, he rushed from his house near by and entered the building to save the valuable public and private papers stored within, and was prevented from making his escape, although his charred remains were found less than two feet from the door by which he entered. Scarcely enough of his body was found to show it to be that of a human being. The Coroner's inquest remained in session from Saturday 14th until the evening of Saturday 21st, most of the time with closed doors, that witnesses might be protected from intimidation, and that the evidence might be kept secret, lest the guilty parties being warned, should escape from justice. The verdict which was not made public till about Tuesday, is to the effect that the office was fired by a man named James Meehan, that another named Barclay was an accomplice, and that Mr. End having entered the office when he was perfectly safe in doing so, was hindered by means unknown, from effecting his escape. The Jury is careful to say that Mr. End was safe in entering the building, in order to preclude the theory of suffocation, but does not feel justified by the evidence, in declaring how his egress was prevented. The coroner's jury deserves every credit for the thoroughness of its investigations, and for its determined efforts to discover the guilty parties, notwithstanding that some witnesses were concealed and others had left the place in order to avoid giving evidence. For many years Mr End was a member of the New Brunswick Legislature, but some time ago he retired from political life. For several years past he held the office of police magistrate of Bathurst, in which position he discharged his duties faithfully, and by the faithful discharge of his duties drew upon himself that enmity which resulted so sadly in his death.

Winter has set in and we have already about three feet of snow, but so far have not had much stormy weather.

We held our Home and Foreign Missionary Meetings in the fall. Bro. Sutcliffe from Miramichi did us good service as the Deputation. The meetings were very successful and we shall be able to report an increase for both funds.

C. H. P.

Bathurst, Dec. 26.

Circuit Intelligence

RIVER PHILIP FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETINGS.—*Mr. Editor*,—Having been entrusted with the duty of furnishing a brief account of the Foreign Missionary meetings on the River Philip circuit. I must endeavour to fulfil it. The meetings were held about the middle of this month. The deputation being Bro. Brown of Pictou and myself. The River Philip circuit is an extensive one, having about eleven preaching appointments. The missionary services were held at East Branch, River Philip, Leicester, and would, but for the severe storm of the 13th inst, have been concluded at Oxford. These services were successful in respect of attendance, interest and financial results.

River Philip is a rising circuit. Last year under the energetic labours of Bro. Harrison it assumed an independent position. This year it enjoys the services of two preachers, and is enlarging its borders territorially, and striving hard to meet the additional claims of a financial nature imposed upon it. In this circuit we have proof that material and spiritual prosperity are in general very closely associated.

The past year has been marked by cheering tokens of the Divine presence, and there is a prospect that the passing year will result in richer baptisms of grace and more numerous accessions to the church. We heartily pray that Bros. Harrison and Tinling may reap a bountiful harvest, from the seed which they themselves scatter as well as that sown in former years.

It would never do to close this letter without making especial allusion to Oxford. As its name might intimate, it is an aspiring place, and though still infantile in years and growth has succeeded in spreading its fame far and wide. To do this the more effectually it has secured a trumpet of its own called the "Marit me Sentinel," and the public may expect to be fully enlightened with regard to the factories which constitute the glory and life of Oxford. If enterprise and self reliance and combined effort can accomplish anything then Oxford is destined at no distant day to eclipse many places of louger growth and superior natural advantages. So mote it be. We might just add that Oxford is selected as the seat of the Truro District meeting next spring.

A. D. M.

MARYSVILLE CIRCUIT, NEW CHURCH, &c.—Marysville is a thriving little village of some 500 inhabitants, pleasantly situated on both sides of the Nashwaak, about three miles from its mouth, and an equal distance from the city of Fredericton. As the Nashwaak is one of the finest streams in the Province, the "Mills," as this place was formerly called, was, for many years, a centre for lumbering operations. Some seven years ago, A Gibson, Esq., who had done a large lumbering business at Lepreaux, bought out the former proprietors, made this his home, and commenced operations on a very large scale. Providence has greatly prospered him, and to-day he finds himself in a position to which few can hope to attain.

But if he has made money, he has loved to spend it, and his contributions to benevolent and religious purposes, have been numerous and munificent. The improvements that he has made in Marysville are very great, and their cost can only be guessed at. Of these we mention a fine bridge across the Nashwaak, a schoolhouse which has few superiors in the Province, neat and comfortable homes for some sixty families, besides many others that need not be named. We pass over the teacher's neat little cottage, his son's fine residence, and his own princely mansion, we shall confine ourselves to the parsonage and church.

THE PARSONAGE

is a neat and comfortable building, everyway adapted for the purpose for which it was built. It is finished and furnished throughout in first class style, and no pains have been spared to render it a gem of neatness and comfort, for whatever taste could suggest, or money purchase has been provided. While Mr. Gibson was quite willing to have borne the whole expense, he was nevertheless gratified at the willingness of the ladies of the congregation to share it with him, who contributed some $200 of the whole amount, which could not be less than $1300 or $1400. Everything having been completed, the pastor of the church, Rev. R. Wilson and family were invited thither to tea, who, after spending a pleasant evening with Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Libbey, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley, were left in possession of their new and comfortable home.

THE CHURCH.

has to be seen to be appreciated, and an artist alone can correctly describe it. It is Gothic in style, octagonal in form, with a spacious vestibule in front and Lecture room in the rear, and surmounted with a steeple and dome. The stucco work is very fine and the frescoing is elaborate. The groundwork of the ceiling is sky blue, and this studded with golden stars gives a very fine effect. The windows are of the best English stained glass, and are inscribed with some of the grandest and most suggestive passages in the Book of God. The duties we owe to God and man are taught in—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." Christ's interest in the young is shown in—"Suffer little children to come unto me." The grave is robbed of its gloom by the soul-cheering utterance—"I am the Resurrection and the life." Heaven is rendered very attractive while we read—"In my Father's house are many mansions," &c. &c. The pulpit is under a triple arch, the centre one bearing the beautiful prayer—"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Pulpit indeed there is none, but what is vastly better, a slightly elevated platform, upon which there is a neat reading desk, and three fine chairs corresponding in form with the arches overhead. The gallery is reserved for the choir who sit before the organ, which is pronounced by competent judges a very superior instrument. The lighting apparatus consists of six lamps in the pulpit, ten in the gallery, and a chandelier in the centre with twenty-four branches. The pews are carpeted and cushioned throughout, and each one furnished with three copies of the Bible and Wesley's Hymns bound together. The pulpit Bible is a very fine one, and was presented to the church by Isaac Burpee, Esq., M. P. of St. John. The church will seat about 400 persons, but the pews can be so arranged that 200 more can be provided for. It is warmed by hot air, and no pains have been spared to render it not only a beautiful, but a comfortable building. What the whole cost of Church and Parsonage amounts to we cannot say, but $50,000 has not paid the bills, a splendid offering surely for one man to lay on the altar of the Lord.

R. W.

[The Dedicatory Services in the above mentioned surpassingly beautiful church were appointed to be conducted last Sabbath. The Rev. D. D. Currie was to preach in the morning, the Rev. H. McKeown in the afternoon and the Rev. Leonard Gaetz in the evening. The services of the day must have been, we are sure, of an exceedingly interesting character; we expect to receive a report of the day's services for publication in our next paper, and we hope that it will show that the Lord God Most High did indeed make his presence most gloriously known to all who had the privilege of joining in those services.—Ed. P. W.]

Miscellaneous.

METHODISM AND ITS BRANCHES.

The *Northwestern*, in an article on "Thirty Methodist Branches are too many," gives the latest statistics of Methodism throughout the world:

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Churches.	Ministers.	Mem. and Pro.
1. Methodist Episcopal.	9,700	1,422,000
2. Methodist Epis. South,	3,000	621,000
3. Methodist Epis. Colored,	100	13,000
4. Evangelical Association,	624	79,000
5. Methodist,	624	50,000
6. Methodist Protestant.	423	70,000
7. American Wesleyan,	250	20,000
8. Free Methodist,	90	6,000
9. Primitive Methodist,	20	2,000
10. African Methodist Epis.	620	200,000
11. African Methodist Zion,	700	164,000
Eleven Churches,	16,151	2,647,000

IN THE CANADAS AND BRITISH AMERICA.

1. Wesleyan Methodist,	600	69,600
2. Wes. Meth. E. Brit. Ame.	170	16,120
3. Methodist Episcopal,	230	21,500
4. New Connection Meth.,	90	8,200
5. Primitive Methodists,	70	7,100
6. Bible Christians,		
7. Methodist Epis. of B. Ame.		
8. Independent Meth. Epis.		
Eight Churches.	1,160	122,520

ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, ETC.

1. Wesleyan, Eng. & Scot.	1,700	367,000
Wesleyan, Ireland,	180	21,000
Wesleyan Missions,	340	78,500
2 Primitive Methodist.	978	162 000
3. United Free Methodist,	390	67,000
4. New Connection,	240	32,000
5. Reform Union,	600	8,000
6. Bible Christian,	250	27,000
7. Christian Meth., Ireland,		3 000
Seven Churches	4,673	771,500

AUSTRALIA, POLYNESIA, ETC.

1. Wesleyan,	350	67,500
2. United Free Methodist,	12	700
3. New Connection,	15	200
Three Churches.	377	68,400

Or, to aggregate, we have not far from 30 Methodist divisions, literally dividing the services of 22,361 ministers and 3,609,420 members. Of course, these do not combat, but they do to some extent, embarrass each other; and mutual sympathy is not complete, for otherwise nothing could keep them apart.

The *Methodist Recorder*, as also the *Watchman*, London, while not advocating the organic unity of the various Protestant denominations of the world, think that some steps should be taken whereby there could be consolidation of the various Methodist bodies of Great Britain.

MR. NEWDEGATE, M. P., AND THE CONVENTS QUESTION.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Newdegate, M. P., addressed a public meeting at Aberdeen, on the subject of monastic and coventual institutions in Great Britain. The meeting, provided over by Lord Provost Leslie, was held in the Belmont Congregational Church, and the hon. member was enthusiastically received by a large audience. His address, which lasted over an hour and a quarter, was throughout characterized by great vigour. The speaker gave at length an account of the progress of Romanism in Great Britain since 1830, and a history of the movements which had been initiated for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the monastic and coventual institutions. He pointed out how these institutions were rapidly increasing in number, while the Jesuits were at the present moment being expelled from Germany because of their refusal to bow to the law of that country, and were taking refuge in Great Britain in hundreds. Jesuit influence had wrought incalculable injury to Europe, and England had often in the past and present suffered from its malignant influence. He concluded by asking that the laws of this country should, like the laws of Germany, be adapted to the altered circumstances of the Roman Catholic community, urged to aggression as they now are by the edicts of an absolute, and, as they think, infallible Papacy. Resolutions in favour of Mr. Newdegate's Parliamentary conduct were passed unanimously, and a Committee was appointed to co-operate in and support the movement initiated by Mr. Newdegate. The meeting was a most cordial one throughout.—*London Watchman.*

Earl Mayo, the late viceroy of India was assassinated not long since. The heathen Maharajah of Pattiala proposes, in honor of his memory, to add £7,500 to the more than $50,000 he had already given to Punjab University, a Christian institution. An exchange very properly urges that when a heathen prince thus contributes to support an institution for the furtherance of the Gospel, it is about time that Christians having large sums of money, of which the Lord has made them stewards should show their recognition of the fact that the gold and silver belong to God; that his is the earth, with all the fullness thereof.

BLIND ASYLUM.—The second annual meeting of the managers and promoters of this institution was held on Friday last for the election of officers and the transaction of other business. There are now eight male and three female pupils, all of whom have been attentive to their studies and their conduct exemplary. In addition to bead and wool work a commencement has been made this year in cane seating chairs, which several can perform very neatly, and thereby do something towards the maintenance of the institution. Two hours a day is given to work, the rest of the time being devoted to learning and study. It is contemplated to introduce the manufacture of brooms, brushes, &c., so that when the pupils leave the asylum they will have a knowledge of some useful occupation.

Several of the pupils have given evidence of a talent for music, and facilities to cultivate it have been afforded. Mr. Saffrey generously devotes two evenings a week to giving instruction in music.

Miss Catherine Ross, an experienced teacher, has been engaged as Superintendent. The cost of maintenance does not exceed twenty cents per day for each inmate. The Treasurer's report shows the receipts from all sources, this year to be $2802.26, and the expenditure $3640,53 leaving to the credit of the Asylum a balance of $161,73, which sum will be absorbed in payments for books, stationery, &c., The Managers convey thanks to the Superintendent of Railways, for free passes to enable the pupils to visit their homes during the Midsummer and Christmas holidays. They also record their high appreciation of the services of the Corresponding Secretary, Charles Fletcher, Esq., who has devoted much time and labor in the interests of the institution gratuitously.

The following gentlemen were chosen Managers for the ensuing year:—Dr. Avery, J. S. Maclean, G. P. Mitchell, M. H. Ritchie; W. C. Silver, W. H. Neal, S. Tobin, Edw. Smith, Cas. Murdoch, S. A. White, John Duffus, C. Fletcher, Esqrs.

PLEASING ENTERTAINMENT.—Last evening a very pleasing entertainment took place under the direction of the ladies connected with the Centenary Sabbath School. The Pastor of the Church, Rev. D. D. Currie, was presented with a very elegant Bible, and a sum of money amounting $130. All the children of the Sabbath School also received presents, consisting of books and a variety of other articles. The ladies deserve a great deal of praise for the manner in which the whole affair was conducted. All the requisite funds had been collected since noon on New Year's Day. The basement of the Church was very tastefully decorated with evergreens. There was three trees laden with the gifts for the children,—one for the smaller children, and two others, one for the boys and another for the girls, so that when the hour for the distribution arrived there was no confusion, but all got the presents designed for them, and a very merry and joyful time it was for the young folks who thought that Santa Claus had not yet departed from our midst.

The pastor made a suitable and feeling reply to the address with which the gifts to himself were accompanied. Other addresses followed, and music, vocal and instrumental, was interspersed, making the occasion a delightful one to all concerned.—*St. John News, 3nd inst.*

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.—The week of prayer was inaugurated by a public meeting in Temperance Hall yesterday afternoon at 4.30 o'clock. The hall was crowded. John S. Maclean presided. Addresses were delivered by D. M. Stearns and Rev. C. B. Pitblado, and prayers offered by Rev. P. G. McGregor, Rev. Mr. Stoddart and Rev. J. A. Rogers. The morning meetings will be held during the week in Argyle Hall at 9.30 o'clock. This evening meetings will be held in the Grafton Street Wesleyan and North Baptist Churches. Subject for the day, "Devout acknowledgement, remembrance of God's mercies to the nation, to families, to the churches, confession of sin," &c.—*Chronicle 6th inst.*

WATCH MEETINGS.—Watch meetings were held in Wesleyan places of worship in the City and in Portland. The largest gathering was that in the Centenary Chapel where the Rev. D. D. Currie conducted services appropriate to the occasion. His address referred principally to the lessons taught by the dawning of the New Year, and the necessity of spending its moments as to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. At a few moments to 12 o'clock, all the large audience knelt in prayer until the new Year was ushered in. At the Exmouth Street Church addresses were given by the Rev. Mr. Pickles and others.

Religious Services were, very appropriately held in many of the city churches yesterday, both morning and evening. Many of these were for special for the Divine blessing upon the new year. The day was generally observed by the Baptist denomination in the Maritime Provinces as one of humiliation and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the churches, which it is understood have been in a languishing condition during the past year.—*St. John News.*

SEASONALAE BENEFICENCE.—On Christmas eve, Alex. Gibson, Esq., sent to each family residing in his cottages at Nashwaak, a turkey or a goose and 2 lbs. of raisins, towards their Christmas dinner, and since then he has distributed among these families a number of valuable books, thus providing aliment for both body and mind. Mr. Gibson's thoughtful kindness is worthy of all praise, and his example might well be followed by other large employers all over the Province.—*St. John News.*

General Intelligence.

A NICE LITTLE SPECULATION IN APPLES.—Last week the barque recently launched at Oak Point, King's County, N. S., owned by J. E. Woodworth, of that place, C. W. Barteaux, of New York, Capt. Smith, who commands her, and others, sailed from Annapolis for London with 7,000 barrels of the choicest apples of King's and Annapolis. The owners of the cargo, who chartered the "Emma Francis," are Messrs. B. B. Woodworth and W. H. Payzant, of Canning, N. S. The fruit cost only a shade over $2 a barrel, the freight is 4s. sterling, and the price of the apples in England is 50s. per barrel. There is a fair chance of making a clear profit of £5,000 stg. The vessel also makes a fair freight. She is 600 tons register, and classed A1 for 9 years in French Lloyd's. We understand that in Devonshire, which supplies England with apples, the crop is a complete failure this year, and also that our Nova Scotia apples are far superior to the English article. The other day 900 barrels were sent to England by steamer—at a high rate of freight, of course.—*St. John Telegraph.*

CHURCH BURNT.—We regret to learn that Carmel Church, Westville, was burnt last Sunday. The loss falls very severely on the new congregation that struggled bravely to build the church. The church cost $3000 and was not insured. Here is a case illustrating the necessity of a Church Insurance Fund. Meanwhile we hope neighbouring congregations will help their distressed brethren.

Friday's *Chronicle* reports that Small Pox is in Pubnico, Argyle, Deerfield, and Yarmouth town. Several new cases are reported. About six deaths in all have occurred so far.

Capt. Thos. Ousley Patten was drowned by falling through the ice while going to his packet schooner "Digby," lying near Bunker's Island, Yarmouth. The men heard him cry, and rushed to the spot but a little too late to rescue him

RIVIERE DU LOUP RAILWAY.—In addition to the business transacted by the Government in the late session, which was noticed in our last issue, the affairs of the Riviere du Loup Railway came in for a share of consideration. The Company was given a grant to which they are by law entitled. The *Reporter* understands on good authority that Mr. Gibson and Mr. Isaac Burpee leave immediately for England, in order to negotiate a loan for the purposes of the road, which is without fail to reach the Tobique River during the Fall of 1873.—*St. John News, 27th ult.*

FIRES IN THE NORTH.—The house of Mr A. D. Boss, Athol, was destroyed by fire between 5 and 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning. In Mr. B.'s efforts to smother the fire with snow his hands were considerably frozen, and he afterwards had the misfortune to burn them quite severely. The fire was communicated by a stovepipe between ceiling and roof. The house was a cheap one. This is the second time Mr. B. has lost his house by fire.—The dwelling of Mr. Barnes, at Woodpoint, Westmorland on Christmas night. Mr. B. was awakened by smoke and fire, and so little time was there to escape that he put his wife and children out of the upper widow and jumped out himself. He carried them to the barn and by that time everything was on fire, even his carriage, sleigh, harness, &c. Everything in the house was burned, the inmates, as stated above, barely escaped with their lives, and then to be in danger of perishing by cold on one of the severest nights of the season. There was no insurance.—*Amherst Gazette.*

A SAD CASE.—The Summerside, P. E. I. "Progress" says:—"A very melancholy case of bereavement took place in this town lately, Mrs. Wilson, wife of Mr. Wilson, sadler, died of meningetis a few weeks ago. Her husband, immediately after her death, fell ill of typhoid fever, and inflammation of the lungs supervening after a short illness, he also died. Thus were four young children made orphans in one month. The case of these little ones is indeed pitiful."

The Halifax *Reporter* has shown its enterprise by getting a very handsome Double Cylinder Wharfdale Press, manufactured by Payne, of Otley, Yorkshire. It is capable of printing say 3000 copies of the *Reporter* in an hour. The *Chronicle* is to be printed on a Wharfdale Press, and folded by machinery in the *Chronicle* building. A Wharfdale Press has been recently added to the 'plant' of the Nova Scotia Printing Company. The Evening *Express* has come out as a Daily paper. It is a large, handsome and well filled sheet.—*Pres. Wit.*

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—for January is out in good season, and forms an excellent holiday number. Its illustrated articles are "Locomotion—Past and Present," the second letter illustrative of "The Old Romans at Home," "The Sailor's Snug Harbor," "The Reading Room of the British Museum," "Old Kensington," Christmas Carol, "Where is the Child" and "Christmas throughout Christendom." Beside these, that are continued stories, poetry, new sketches, essays, and the scientific and literary records, with that budget of fun, "The Editor's Drawer."

STOKES OF NEW YORK.—The Jury returned a verdict against Stokes on the 4th inst., of murder in the first degree—and a Special Telegram to the *Reporter* on the 6th is as follows.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.

Stokes was this morning sentenced by the Judge to be hanged on the 28th of February next, being the shortest time the law allows between the time of the sentence and its execution.

Before the sentence, Tremaine, the counsel for the prisoner, took exception to the Judge's ruling. Governor Dix, it is stated, is not likely to commute the sentence. Stokes made a speech, bitterly denouncing several of the witnesses as perjured wretches.

SINGULAR CASE OF POISONING.—A few days since a man named Gaetz, residing at Lawrencetown, died under rather singular circumstances. It appears that he had, while on a visit to town, procured a quantity of rat poison. When about to use it he—impelled by curiosity-smelt and inhaled a quantity, of course without intending to absorb any into his system. A few moments afterwards he was taken ill. Neglecting to send for a physician till it was too late, he lingered for a time and then died in terrible suffering.—*Acadian Recorder.*

FROZEN.—At Amherst, the other day, John McLellan, a sailor belonging to a vessel loading there, had his feet badly frozen. He is now under medical treatment. A drunken fellow belonging to Amherst went on a spree the other day, and lay out all night. Next morning he was found almost frozen to death, and it is feared he will lose his hands and legs

The New Brunswick "Royal Gazette" contains the following description of Meehan, the incendiary, for whom a reward of $600 is offered:—"About twenty-three years of age, five ft. eleven inches in height, dark complexion, black hair, wore a moustache and hair on the chin, but may have shaved off; no side whiskers; large dark hazel eyes; wild look; has a scar on one wrist, and also on the back of his right hand."

A fire on St Peter's Street, Montreal, last night, destroyed the fancy goods establishment and broom factory belonging to Nelson, Wood & Co., the boot factory of Amos Willard, and an adjoining warehouse. The themometer was 15 degrees below zero, and the water froze