

THE WESLEYAN.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1879.

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the MISSIONARY COMMITTEE of the Nova Scotia Conference, will be held in the School Room, of Brunswick St. Church, Halifax, on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 9.30 a.m.

S. P. HUESTIS,  
Pres. of Conference.

A ROUND TRIP.

The recent opening of the Railway from Yarmouth to Digby enables the traveller to make the journey, of about two hundred miles, from Halifax to Yarmouth, in about a dozen hours.

During the last week we went over the ground. In from five to six hours from Halifax we reached Annapolis—the most ancient historic town of Nova Scotia. Here the steamer was taken for Digby. A run of an hour and a half down the Annapolis river, and across the basin, brought us to the steamer wharf of that picturesque town. At 4.30 p. m. the train glided away from the Digby station with one first-class car over-crowded with passengers, besides baggage and freight cars. The road appears to be as thoroughly built as any other road on which we have travelled; and the cars of this road rolled along as smoothly, so far as we could judge, as the cars do over any part of the Inter-colonial Railway. We passed through many miles of well-timbered forest land between Digby and Yarmouth. It were well if some thousands of emigrants could, ere long, be located on the tens of thousands of acres of vacant lands in that part of the Province, and thereby add to the wealth of the Province generally, and especially to the wealth of the Railway Company, by increasing the traffic of the road.

The Yarmouth County Exhibition was held in Yarmouth on the day following our arrival. The general display of the products of the soil, and the manufactured articles, was creditable. What surprised us more than anything else was the fine exhibit of apples, pears, and peaches, which compared favourably with anything of the kind that we saw at the recent exhibition in Halifax. We knew well what the Annapolis Valley can do in the way of raising fruit, but we were not prepared to see that Yarmouth County could so successfully compete with the famous Annapolis County in the fruit-raising line.

The one peculiar topic of the day in Methodist circles in Yarmouth, as well as elsewhere, is the Relief and Extension Fund. Brother Lathern held his meeting, in the interest of the Fund, at Milton on the evening of our arrival. Brother Taylor's meeting was held on the following evening, at Acadia. At Milton the brethren Sutcliffe, Taylor, Lathern, and Teasdale addressed the meeting. At Acadia there were the same speakers, except that brother Johnson, of Hebron, took the place of brother Teasdale. At both meetings the initial work was done which will, it is hoped, secure good returns. The Providence Church meeting had not been held at the time of our leaving.

Yarmouth has recently been passing through serious financial difficulties, on account of the low rates of freights which have recently prevailed, and on account of the failure of a large Marine Insurance Company. But the dark clouds that have been lowering over that well-built, enterprising, and wealthy town, are, we were informed, breaking away, and a better day, commercially, appears to be dawning.

We took passage in the steamer "Edgar Stuart" for Liverpool. We cannot boast of the speed with which she accomplished the journey from the one place to the other. But the lively way with which she dips her bow into the waves when the sea is rolling, and then her stern, and then again her bow, and then rolls from one side to the other, and then rolls back again, is decidedly exciting. As we were coming into the harbour of Liverpool on Saturday night, the fire-bells of the town were ringing. From the deck of the steamer we could look upon two fires in progress at the same time: one at Milton, destroying a house and barn; the other three miles distant, and at the lower part of the town, doing, however, but little damage.

On Sunday evening we preached to a large congregation in our Liverpool church. Here, eleven years ago last spring, just previous to the termination of a three years happy pastorate there, we received many scores of persons into the membership of our church by the right hand of fellowship. Brother Brown is well appreciated by our people there. He has recently had some much needed repairs made upon the church, which improves greatly the appearance of the sanctuary.

Liverpool has lately passed through very embarrassing financial trials. A few years ago some enterprising "kite-flying" speculators made this town the field of their operations. Unwise adventures have brought bankruptcy to many commercial houses here, and sore financial distresses to others. There seems to be but little capital here now whereby new enterprises may be undertaken. A general want of confidence prevails. A considerable amount of gold-bearing quartz has been discovered at Middlefield, about a dozen miles from Liverpool. Initial steps, for the organization of two companies to undertake mining operations, have been taken. A promising piece of quartz of large size, and containing gold, silver, lead, and iron, has been picked up, within the last few days, within four miles of the town. The discoverer declines, at present, to point out the spot where he obtained the promising mineral. It may be that these findings will lead to developments that will help to bring prosperity to this once thriving, and still pretty, sea shore town.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

The recent encyclical of the Pope has brought into prominence again one of the greatest divines of the thirteenth century. The act itself is significant though perhaps of little real importance. It is an act of quasi liberality; for the church of Rome is not likely to be sincerely or really liberal. Modern science has diverged far from the line of dogmatic theology as taught by the Romish church, and that church has so obstinately set its face against the methods of modern science as to appear the opponent of philosophy. The recent manifesto approves learning, exalts philosophy, and sanctions within certain limits the inquiring spirit which searches out all knowledge. But its approval of learning is reserved, not frank and open. It overlooks the progress of modern times, and goes back to the middle ages for its philosophy and theology. It points to St. Thomas Aquinas.

This eminent man was born about the year 1224, at Aquino, in the kingdom of Naples. His education was commenced in the monastery of Monte Cassino. When about seventeen years of age, he took, without the knowledge of his parents, the habit of the Dominicans. His mother remonstrated against this step, and had him closely confined in the castle of Rocca-Sicca, where he devoted himself entirely to the study of the Holy Scriptures. Nothing could induce him to renounce the step he had taken. At length he escaped and fled to Rome, and afterwards to Cologne, where he became the pupil of Albert the Great, then the greatest figure in philosophy in Europe.

In 1248 he taught philosophy at Cologne and in 1255 was made a Doctor of Theology at the University of Paris, after having taught in that city, for some time. He afterwards taught in several Italian Universities, and at length took up his abode in the city of Naples, where he rejected many offers of ecclesiastical preferment.

He died in 1274 when on his way to attend the Council of Lyons, to which he had been called by Pope Urban in order to read a book which he had written against the claims of the Greek Church. Fifty years afterwards he was canonised by John the twenty-second, with the rank of fifth Doctor of the church. He was known as the angelic Doctor.

He was a voluminous writer and his works rank very high, partly for their real merit and partly because they embody the prevailing thought in the Church of Rome. In point of fertility and acuteness he ranks at the head of all the scholastic divines, and his Summa Theologica is, perhaps, the most splendid attempt ever made to give to the world a science of theology. His philosophy was modified by his theology. His best work the Summa Theologica was an attempt to present a system of theology which was really the church's interpretation of the scriptures in the theological form. In Aquinas, scholasticism, or the system of philosophizing upon the doctrines of religion which had its rise with Anselm, attained its culmination. Thenceforth after maintaining

a precarious footing in all the principal seats of learning until the Reformation, it gradually fell into decay.

Scholasticism grew out of the idea that a truth of religion once revealed, is capable of being treated in the same manner as any fact in nature. It was an attempt to account philosophically for every doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture, to assign a reason for every act of God, and to give a scientific explanation of every doctrine taught by the church. Its starting point was, the doctrines of the church are true like the facts of nature, and are capable of rational explanation. It held that every truth of religion can be investigated, viewed in its relation to other facts, and explained in accordance with known truths.

With Aquinas this science of religion was grafted upon the stock of Aristotelian Philosophy. He was an ardent disciple of the Stagirite; and sustained his philosophy against the papal bull, inculcating, illustrating, and enforcing it in his lectures.

The discussions of the schools, of which Aquinas was a prominent master, was a useless exercise, leading to no great practical result. And the Pope of the present day, in leading back the church to the study of the great divine of the middle ages, is merely diverting attention from the great practical questions of to-day.

The recent encyclical must be regarded as sustaining the scholastic theology, both as regards doctrine and methods, against the Patristic, Biblical, and Mystic divines; and as therefore liberal in contrast with the decisions of Pope Urban, and the decrees of many Popes since, including Pius the ninth. But we fail to see in it any real spirit of liberty, and if it means the adoption of the views of St. Thomas Aquinas, it looks like a step back into the gloom of the thirteenth century.

HANNAY'S HISTORY OF ACADIA.

THE HISTORY OF ACADIA, from the pen of Mr. James Hannay, of St. John, N. B., has recently issued from the press of Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, of the same place. The author tells his readers in his Preface, that the History is the result of a resolve, made about fifteen years ago, to write about those stirring romantic periods of Acadian history—a resolve retarded in its full accomplishment by the great St. John fire, which destroyed the greater part of his unpublished manuscript. We rejoice such an untoward and disheartening event did not discourage the author in the further prosecution of his task. The History embraces the narration of events from the first discovery and settlement of Acadia to the final downfall of Quebec, and the subsequent Treaty of Paris, 1763,—whereby France renounced forever all claim to Canada and Acadia. This work supplies a want long felt, and is destined to take high rank among kindred publications.

The first discovery of this Continent by the great Genoese navigator marked the beginning of a new epoch in European history. It opened up to the daring and enterprising of the old world's populations rich and inviting fields of adventure and gain, greater than had ever before been limned by romancer's pen, or dreamed of in poet's fancy. Those shattered in fortunes, but desirous of regaining them—those courting adventure for the mere love of it—in short, representatives of every class wistfully turned their faces toward the great unknown waste of Western waters, and pressed eagerly forward to the El Dorado beyond. We cannot wonder at the feelings enkindled in the breasts of Europeans, for America was grand in her natural aspects, and rich in her natural resources. Her mighty rivers and great inland seas—her broad billowy prairies and "rock ribbed" mountains—her foaming cataracts and fruitful valleys, were well calculated to impress the mind and excite the imagination of those landing upon her shores. And on no portion of the Continent were those natural developments moulded on a grander or more impressive scale than in Canada and Acadia—the territories embraced within the scope of Mr. Hannay's History.

The book is composed of twenty-four chapters, extending over 432 pages. The limits of an article of this nature forbid any serious attempt to give an adequate notice of the frame and scope of the History. In essaying the present notice, it will be our aim rather to fasten upon prominent places and personages, irrespective of chronological order and chapter divisions. Acadia may be understood to have comprehended the present Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and portions of the State of Maine; but as to territorial limits, as upon almost all questions affecting the early history of Acadia, there existed much of difference and dispute. Mr. Hannay frankly informs us that, after critically investigating many documents and data, passing in many quarters as historically reliable and accurate, he was compelled to discard them as myths and fables. But from the enormous mass of myth and fact, he has succeeded in extracting and arranging, in methodical order, an array of reliable historical data, presented in vigorous English, which does credit to his research, and which imparts additional importance to Canadian authorship. We read a book with a greater interest and a keener relish, when the places it describes are quite familiar to us. The writer's pages are then almost as pleasant and absorbing as the off-hand conversation of an old friend descending, it may be, about the old familiar haunts of our youth.

The places described by Mr. Hannay, in his History, are well known to hundreds and thousands of the people of the Maritime Provinces. We are very apt to forget that we have within our own borders localities immortalized by deeds of arms, and consecrated by the blood of our fathers. Port Royal—now Annapolis—is a place of the greatest possible interest to every student of Acadian history. Attempts were made to colonize it over two hundred and fifty years ago. A century and a half before the Independence of the United States, Europeans landed upon the shores of Annapolis Basin for purposes of trade and colonization. Forts were also built at the mouth of the Saint John River, on the Carleton side, for purposes of trade and defence. But we cannot particularize too minutely. The discoveries of that veteran sailor—Jacques Cartier, whose prow first cleft the waters of the St. Lawrence—the efforts of Champlain, and many others, at colonization—the deadly feuds of Charnisay of Port Royal, and LaTour of St. John—the heroic defence of the fort at St. John, against Charnisay, by Madame LaTour in her husband's absence—the surrender of the fort, upon solemn articles of agreement, which were shamelessly violated by the treacherous and brutal Charnisay after the capitulation—the death of Madame LaTour of a broken heart shortly after—the death of Charnisay—the marriage of his widow to LaTour—the attempt of the Scotch, under Sir William Alexander, to colonize Port Royal, and their expulsion—the capture of Fort Cumberland, Louisbourg, and Quebec, are historical facts almost stranger than fiction, and which Mr. Hannay has woven into the pages of his book with much skill and force. Port Royal, after varying fortunes, was finally ceded to England by France, under the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, and has ever since remained under the sovereignty of Great Britain. We talk about the Jemseg and the Nashwaak, rarely remembering that they were once important military posts for the French and their Indian allies. We can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that in old ante-colonial days French and English soldiers fought fiercely for their possession. Fort Lawrence and Beauséjour (now Fort Cumberland), at one time played an important part in the history of this country. The former belonged to the English—the latter to the French. La Loutre, a priest, who evidently thought more of plotting against English rule in Acadia than for the cure of souls, was the presiding genius at Fort Cumberland before its final fall. One pleasant morning, in June, 1755, Vergor, the French commander, was forced to surrender the fort, himself and his men, to Colonel Monckton, the British commander. La Loutre escaped, and after many hardships, reached Quebec. The fall of Fort Cumberland was the death blow to French power on the waters of the Bay of Fundy. Louisbourg, in Cape Breton, is a point of great interest. The strength of its fortifications was second only to Quebec. It was a continual menace and source of alarm to the New England colonists. Governor Shirley, of Massachusetts, in 1745, conceived the bold design of capturing this place. He despatched Colonial troops, under General Pepperell—a merchant, who had seen no active service, except border Indian warfare. Shirley was a man of wonderful activity and force of character, and he infused into the little army he had fitted out his own unconquerable energy and spirit. Louisbourg was captured, but England did not then appear to realize the importance of the capture, for in 1748, by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, it was handed back to France, to be recaptured ten years later, by General Amherst, with Wolfe, Lawrence, and Whitmore as subordinates in command. In 1629, Sir David Kirk captured Quebec, but Charles the First of England thought so little of the conquest that, in 1632, he gave it up to France without a murmur. One hundred and twenty seven years later, Wolfe led his small but veteran army up the heights to the plains of Abraham, and in the battle which followed between him and Montcalm, England and France contended not merely for the possession of Quebec, but for the sovereignty of a Continent. The issue of that momentous battle requires no recapitulation here. The sceptre of power passed into the hands of England, and has remained there to the present day.

The expulsion of the Acadians is a vexed question in Acadian history. Mr. Hannay justifies the act as one of necessity, which the very existence of British supremacy, at a critical period, imperatively demanded. He affirms that the Acadians were secretly aiding and

abetting the enemies of England. They were impatiently awaiting a favorable opportunity to strike a death blow against the toes of *la belle France*. They had been repeatedly remonstrated with and admonished. They had time and again refused to take the oath of allegiance. Forbearance at length ceased to be a virtue, and they were forcibly expelled the country. Our author says: "Doubtless the sorrows of a famished Acadian family furnish an admirable theme for a poet who desires to appeal to the sympathetic feelings of our nature; but the murdered British settlers, slain in mere wantonness by the Indians, at the instigation of the French, also had claims upon humanity." About three thousand of these misguided and unfortunate people were forcibly removed from the country, but it is estimated that fully two thirds of them returned.

The complete subjugation of the country by England was one of those events no skill or bravery could avert. The writing was upon the wall—the decree had gone forth, and the power to reverse it was beyond the control of man. The bitterness and strife of bygone days have vanished, and the descendants of French and English—of those who fought under Wolfe and Montcalm—the conquered and the conqueror—live together in peace and harmony. Their rivalry is that of generous contention in professional, commercial, and industrial pursuits. The sons of the sires whose blood stained the plains of Abraham have joined hands and erected, within sight of the very battlefield itself, a joint monument to the memory of the two rival leaders. This fact is unique in history, and speaks more potently than can tongue or pen, of the favorable progress of events. France, Spain, Portugal, and others among modern nations, have miserably failed in their attempts at colonization. England alone, among the moderns, bears the proud distinction of being the "mother of nations." She is the great colonizer in all quarters of the globe, and her colonists are citizens of the Empire. Like her great prototype, ancient Rome, earnest, resolute, and steadfast, she has planted her *Greater Britains*, enjoying to the full her protection, her language, institutions, and laws, beneath all skies, and beside every sea. No armed force is required to guard her interests in this Dominion to-day. All alike enjoy the blessings of her maternal rule.

But we must close this notice of a very readable and interesting book. Its personal has given us much pleasure. The mechanical part of the work is excellent, having good paper and clear type, an important feature in this reading age. Mr. Hannay, as assistant editor of the *St. John Telegraph*, had already won a reputation as a writer. He has greatly added to that reputation by his recent History. His statements of facts are always clear and forcible and his descriptions are frequently animated and eloquent. We think his work will take its place as an authority in Acadian History. We predict for it a successful sale, and recommend its perusal to those wishing to become acquainted with the early history of their native land.

The new Methodist Church, now being built in Shediac, narrowly escaped being burned in the recent disastrous fire in that town.

The Liverpool Relief and Extension Fund meeting was held on Monday evening last, with good results.

The church at Bridgewater has recently had its debt removed through the vigorous efforts of Brother Shore.

The friends in the Maritime Provinces of R. Luttrell, Esq., formerly Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway, will be pleased to learn that he has been appointed General Superintendent of the Grand Junction and North Hastings Railway in Ontario. His office is in Belleville.

The Central Board of the Missionary Society was in session in Ottawa at the time of our going to press. The President of the General Conference was in the chair. A motion for the appropriation of a salary to the Honorary Secretary was under consideration. The question was earnestly discussed; but the vote thereupon had been deferred until the closing day of the session.

The Lunenburg Relief and Extension Fund meeting was held on Tuesday evening. The attendance was large, and the financial prospects are fair. Brother Tuttle has recently had some much needed repairs made to the parsonage. Our Lunenburg church is one of the largest edifices in the Province, and is too small for the regular congregations. The expediency of building a new church, in that busy and prosperous town, is being seriously considered.

On Wednesday evening of last week a meeting was held in the school room of the Grafton St. Church in the interest of the Relief and Extension Fund; and while the attendance was not large, the spirit and tone were excellent. After a plain statement of the case made by the pastor, Rev. S. B. Dunn, the Rev. Dr. Pickett and Dr. Allison advocated a lively interest in the fund, and awakened a lively interest in the minds of those present. Already some \$800 have been promised, and it is hoped that this amount will be increased to at least a thousand dollars.

On Sabbath next being Hospital Sunday, collections will be taken in all the churches of this city in aid of the funds of the "Halifax Dispensary." This institution is doing a good work. Last year 3735 patients received medical advice and medicines from the hands of the attending Physicians, and 4284 visits were paid by the medical gentlemen to the visiting staff to the houses of those who were unable to attend at the Dispensary. 12,550 prescriptions were given gratuitously to individual applicants and the several city charities were also supplied with medicines free of charge.