

(Continued from first page.)

But, seriously Mr. Editor, what is it all about? For the past year our beloved people have been suffering great financial pressure, and struggling heroically under crushing burdens. All this while we, as their pastors, have been comforting, encouraging, cheering them as we best could, telling them wise little things about the "silver lining" the good "time coming," "patience and its perfect work," &c. &c. Indeed, we have been quite philosophers. But now that the cloud has cast some of its shadows, and by no means its densest—upon us, our philosophy—no, our faith, our trust in God gives way, and lo, from so many quarters the most unmanly outcries! Is this right? Is this preaching by example? What will our people think of us? Does God pay His workmen with starvation? Well, even if he does, such wages coming from His hand are good. We shall the sooner enter upon our reward. But why talk of starvation! I am free to assert that class for class and man for man the ministers of Christ are in far better circumstances than men in any other line of life. (Hear, hear, E.I.) "Cape Breton" writes of "lying on the bed we have made." If he will only enquire I doubt not he will find on every hand beds softer than his stretched on, and covering narrower than he wraps himself up with.

Now, I do not want to occupy much of your space with this matter. Too much of it has been taken up already. I only want to protest against being "assured" with those who "cry" over this. S. W. S. is surprised that so many of us "are so silent under circumstances so startling," &c. I must be surprised over such an outcry, or perhaps our first lesson was to suffer ourselves to be "assured" by us so to do.

Our correspondents points to the "Wesleyan" as a "Wesleyan" paper. Now our West-India friends always ready to send us their "Wesleyan" down East to do their duty. Things were wrong. No wonder. We reversed the order of nature. Light comes from the East. Let us turn the tables. Send a deputation now to the West, and let our good brethren Cape Breton, and S. W. S. head the heroic band.

Not being a bloated aristocrat, or pampered incumbent of an independent circuit, whose painful duty it is to receive a full salary this year, but occupying a field of labor on which the present depression most heavily tells, I can truthfully subscribe myself,

A FELLOW SUFFERER. N.S., 29th Nov. 1875.

AN EXPLANATION.

DEAR BRO. NICOLSON.—I thank you for correcting in the WESLEYAN for November 20th, a mistake which I inadvertently made in the November number of the Wesleyan Magazine, with reference to the Missionary income of the year—which mistake I very greatly regret. Will you kindly allow me the earliest opportunity of explaining how it arose.

The article was written, in order to be published for the November number of the Wesleyan Magazine, during the Session of the Central Missionary Board at Colborne, and was based upon a misapprehension of the excellent address of a highly respected Brother from the East, at a Missionary Meeting in this city, and on the brief statements in the daily papers, recording the action of the Missionary Board. The Missionary Report was not then published, and in fact only a few days ago had on my table. I understood the Brother referred to in explaining some of the causes of the decline of the year, to make a statement which you quote—viz. "That the substitution of only one series of meetings and one collection for both the natural and the artificial, during the first year of the change, to a decrease in the aggregate amount raised."

Of course I was mistaken. I must have misapprehended what the speaker said about a "decrease of collections in the country" for a "decrease of collections in the aggregate," although in this town and village there was a large increase. Let me assure our friends in the Eastern Conference, who are among the warmest and most active friends of our Communion in this city, for which I tender my hearty thanks, that nothing was further from my thought, than to draw any unjust contrast between the 44th and 45th sessions of our common church. Indeed, I was trying to give an adequate reason for what I at the time supposed to be a fact. I therefore went on to say, immediately after the quotation which Dr. Peck had cited, "To their credit be it said, however, the Churches in Charlottetown, Fredericton, St. John, Halifax, and other larger places, exceeded in the one collection both those of the preceding year. In the rural districts, however, where the change

was perhaps not so definitely understood, the reverse was the case. Nevertheless, the average subscription per member is very nearly that of the entire church, and greater than that of some of the Western Conferences." I also gave in another portion of the Magazine, from the WESLEYAN, the figures indicating those averages, but not having the statistics of the previous year, I was led into the error which Dr. Peck and corrects. I remain, Yours fraternally, W. H. WILKINSON.

Toronto, Nov. 24, 1875.

SACKVILLE INSTITUTIONS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The terminal examinations have just been held again. At any time full of interest, they have presented on this occasion many features peculiarly gratifying. The year's work is always entered upon with more or less solicitude. This year an advanced position in important particulars had been taken, and the result of the term's work is such as to justify the enterprise which had planned for securing greater efficiency.

The new Academic Hall, with its spacious and beautiful class rooms, and the increased staff of teachers in the Male Academy, were just in time for the great increase of students, which, notwithstanding the hard times, is reported.

Every one sees at a glance the improved facilities for comfortable working in the Ladies' Academy, and notwithstanding the good attendance last term, Principal Inch has, as the result of adding the symmetrical wing to the building, many nice rooms awaiting occupants. He has made provision for still greater growth and he will have it, I refer you to an article in the "Post," for the number in attendance. I have only to add that the College students number thirty.

The College oral examinations were held on Thursday and Friday. I can report from only some of the classes. The rendering of the Freshmen in Horace was an evidence that the accurate scholarship, the polished taste, and the downright earnestness of Professor Smith had told as of oldtime. The class in Analytical Geometry, and that in Chemistry, made excellent recitations, and it was clear that even in one term's work the well-known enthusiasm of Professors Weldon and Burwash had had a most quickening effect on the mind of their students. Indeed one fact was particularly noticeable throughout—the real work accomplished in one brief term, and nowhere more so than in the mental science class. The knowledge of the history of Philosophy, the accurate discrimination between the different schools of thought, the clear apprehension of the question involved and the firm grasp of the truths reached, made this recitation a most interesting one. President Allison holds very decided views on metaphysical subjects, and he has a wonderful facility in imparting these views with clarity.

One class from the Divinity school was heard on Friday—the second year's Hebrew, and the ease in translating, with the accuracy shown in parsing, made one thankful for the arrangement which gives this second year to the study of the sacred language.

I regretted not hearing Prof. Inch's classes in French and Rhetoric, particularly the former, of which a very competent judge gave a most appreciative report, but Prof. Inch long ago established his reputation in the department of modern languages.

On Monday the examinations of the Academies were held; one could hear only a few of the many classes reciting. In the Ladies' Academy the French class showed the result of the accurate scholarship, the untiring faithfulness, and the special teaching power of the gifted Chief Preceptress. Miss Bonnets class in reading afforded a most agreeable half hour, and Miss Johnson's classes in Arithmetic and Algebra showed that they had been taught to reason by their very faithful teacher. Miss Tuttle, one of the youngest teachers, is evidently very painstaking and accurate. In the Male Academy, not only the older and tried ones, but the two new teachers are doing good work. I was sorry not to hear any of Mr. Allison's classes, but I heard Mr. Powell's in grammar. This gentleman is not doing simply routine work in syntax, but is helping the boys to think, and he takes every opportunity for instructing in the etymology of words, in all which his own studies in Anglo-Saxon are eminently helpful.

The Commercial College had a crowd of bright-eyed boys, who looked as if they meant business. This department is very popular, and in the opinion of Mr. Whiston second in importance to no department of the institution.

On Tuesday the Divinity school-classes were examined, and were such as to make one thankful for the new department taken here. Dr. Stewart's classes in Mental Theology, with Hedge as text book, and the History of Doctrines, passed good examinations; that of the latter was most excellent. This last remark will apply to Prof. Kennedy's class in Church History, and Dr. Allison's in New Testament Exegesis. By universal consent this school has at the outset of its work vindicated the wisdom of its establishment.

On Saturday the musical examination was held. This department is in the

very highest state of efficiency. Prof. Sterne is on all sides acknowledged as a *maître*; while his brilliant execution, his great enthusiasm in the work of teaching, and his good humored readiness to please, enabling us to get delicious selections occasionally on the College organ, combine to render him a general favorite. The refined taste and skillful execution of Misses Pickard and Stewart, gave them their place on the staff of the music department, and there is but one opinion as to the value of the services rendered by them.

In the new and finely lighted studio the productions of Miss Wheeler's pupils were on exhibition. Simple decorations, but most daintily made, told of the eye and hand of the artist. There were a few paintings of real value of the pieces were by younger pupils. Making not the slightest pretensions as an art critic, I may yet say that in the conscientious attention to details, and the careful finish in the work, the fine taste and painstaking care of the teacher were apparent.

I refer you to the "Post" for an account of the closing exercises, merely saying that the recitations were generally regarded as better than usual on such occasions, and the essays by the young ladies were very certainly of a very superior character.

It is to be hoped that many more of the young men of our land will avail themselves of the peculiarly favourable opportunities for taking a literary course in our rising college. The Professors are comparatively young men enthusiastic in their work, and determined to lift the deservedly high character of the Institution still higher.

They have already gained a solid reputation for accurate scholarship and wide culture and the coming years will enhance that reputation.

J. HART.

THE WESLEYAN.

The only Methodist Paper published in the Maritime Provinces. \$2 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE POSTAGE PREPAID.

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As an ADVERTISING MEDIUM IT HAS NO EQUAL in these Provinces.

Rev. S. ROBE, Methodist Book Room, Toronto, is Agent for this paper.

All Wesleyan Ministers are Agents.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1875.

WRITING SERMONS.

It seems that our Wesleyan brethren, although they do not take their manuscripts into the pulpit, but commit their sermons to memory, are more accustomed than we supposed to write them out in full. The Methodist (London) admits the charge of a divinity correspondent of a country paper, that the Wesleyan ministers preach over and over the same sermons, and thinks the Circuit system with its itinerancy encourages habits of indolence in his respect. The writer says, "The late Thomas Jackson used to say that a fire in the house of every Methodist minister every five years, would be an incalculable benefit, both to the sufferer himself, and to his congregation, because it would burn up his stock of old sermons." We once heard it said of one of our popular preachers, that he was a "finished" man; he never had anything new. No minister can long preserve his self-respect, or take comfort in his own discourses, who does not constantly study for fresh lines of thought and illustration. A witty Methodist preacher tells the exact number of sermons upon which a well-known eloquent occasional pulpit orator has built up his reputation. Even Dr. Newton preached upon the five sparrows sold for two farthings, until the birds became familiar objects all over England. It is much easier, and a great deal better, to make a garment out of new cloth, than to re-weave and patch an old one.—Zion's Herald.

We will hazard a verdict upon the above paragraph. Either the writer (the English writer we mean) has never had much experience in regard to preaching, or he does not attain to mastery in the pulpit. It is not just this condemnation of writing sermons. Only by extraordinary endowment are men ever qualified to take high vantage ground as preachers, who have not laboriously applied themselves, at some period in life to manuscript preparation. Occasionally an inspired effort is beyond the hope of being reported, because the speaker has not preached from preparation, but in such cases, previous years of systematic study and composition have given the man command of language—of style, as we term it. And what preacher is ignorant of the fact that the composition of mature and vigorous youth is worth preserving, inasmuch as on certain subjects, sermons composed at that period, can never be surpassed by the individual, and will always bear to be reproduced? Preachers who indulge in unqualified censure of sermon-writing, may safely be accepted as reweavers, only

after their own preaching has been fully weighed with their theory. Young ministers should write frequently and fully upon principal topics—in short, should always have "hot iron on the anvil;" though, at the same time, an essential part of their education and work is to cultivate a ready extemporaneous utterance, by preaching occasionally without manuscript aid.

CLIMBING TO DEATH.

The following appears in the Era:

The stairs of ordinary houses are so destructive to the health of women, that it is said that even the peasant girls, who before they emigrate to this country, have sufficient physical vigor to work in the field all day, and never tire, break down soon after they enter our fashionable houses as servants, and become as weakly as American women. If she does the chamber-work in a boarding-house, between waiting on the table, answering the door-bell, going three or four times to the fourth story with messages, and doing her morning work, she mounts forty or fifty flights of stairs. A writer in the New York Evening Post accounts for the fact that the American woman is deteriorating physically "by pointing to the five thousand flights of stairs that she is required to climb each year—if indeed that number covers it." Recognizing the fact that in cities horizontal is more costly than vertical house building, she (for it is a woman who writes) suggests that as a matter of life and death, the elevator system, so successfully applied to business buildings, should be adapted to the necessities of the private house. The suggestion is prompted by a public necessity. The inventor, who shall invent an inexpensive and safe elevator, which can be easily run by water or some other cheap power, and managed by servants, or women unacquainted with machinery, will confer a blessing upon many women who sing the "Song of the Stairs" more than they do the "Song of the Shirt."

In cities there may be some show of reason for building houses narrow and high. Land is dear, and proprietors must make the most of their purchase. The sooner, however, a remedy such as the Era hints at, is provided, the better for domestic comfort and mercy. Any species of torture which would equal in effects upon the constitution of our wives and servants, these modern five story tenements, would certainly call for legislative interposition. We conversed with a woman two years ago upon this subject, whose sad experience has been but one of thousands. She declared in a vein of keen sarcasm, that husbands now-a-days killed off their first wives by these murderous stairways, and afterwards took second wives to homes where they need not climb, and so might live till nature became exhausted. The woman has since died, probably from this cause in part; and it is possible the second wife and the convenient home are both in prospect.

In country districts, however, people should have more sense and kindly consideration than to construct unsightly, injurious houses. Live on the humble grade, and leave climbing to excursionists and sailors.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN RELATION TO PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Zion's Herald lifts up a voice of lamentation and warning in view of the absence, to so large an extent, of Sunday School scholars from the services of public worship. "Go where you will," it says, "you find few children in the 'great congregation.' A painful feature of this fact is, that they do not wish to be present. Many of them indeed seem to dislike it. And this aversion grows with their growth, so that when they quit the Sunday School, as in spite of all influence to the contrary, multitudes do, shortly after entering their teens, they go out into the world without any very strongly developed sense of obligation to become habitual 'hearers of the Word.' As the venerable Bishop Peck lately observed, when addressing a company of Sunday School workers, 'there is reason to fear that we are rearing in our Sunday Schools, a generation of church neglecters.'"

The Herald thinks the cause of the evil complained of is not inherent in the institution itself, but in something incidental to it, and separable from it; and it suggests that it may be found in the fact that the children naturally infer from what they see and hear that the Sunday School is of higher value and importance than the Church service and so learn to slight the latter.

This is all contrary to our convictions of Sunday School influences. Thirty years ago as we can well remember, children were more indifferent in respect to the public services of the Sanctu-

ary than those of the present decade. And why? Preaching services in general were "all Greek" to them. The Hymns or Psalms were above their comprehension; the prayers of the pulpit they could understand but to a trifling extent; while the Sermon was the most incomprehensible of all. Children run with eagerness to hear anything that will interest them. They may be pardoned for shunning a repetition of exercises which sound to them much as the intonation and delivery of Arabic would to an ordinary hearer. The fault is with the Church, and not the Sunday School. There are preachers—God bless them! who have no complaint like this to make.

Our Sunday School teachers are habitual attendants upon public worship, and so show the children a good example. And so far from these training their pupils to regard the services of the Sanctuary as of lesser value, the Cities and Villages are thronged with men and women who have been moulded by Sabbath School influences. It is noticed that under the labors of Moody and Sankey, young people seem to accept salvation with wonderful readiness—step from the world into religion, from illness to usefulness, with marvelous rapidity of transition. The fact is the masses have been brought by the Sunday School to the very feet of Christ, and only have to believe on and accept Him, because they had before learned fully the conditions of peace.

The responsive letter from "One of the Sufferers" in our correspondence columns this week, deserves our gratitude. We know that only the purest soul-trust has dictated that communication, as the writer's position is one to which Fifty or Sixty Dollars additional grant would have been a not unimportant consideration. After all, we have very much to be thankful for. Our Lord hath not forsaken us,—blessed be His name forever.

Our correspondent "Y. D." has thrown not a little light on the vexed question of our grant for this year; his letters ought to do much in allaying the irritation which has grown out of the Missionary Society's difficulties of debt, hindering its benevolence to Domestic Missions. On the principle well argued by our friend, though, we can scarcely see how, if we fare nearly as well in, as we would have out, of Union, the representatives from an Eastern Conference could have demanded a larger grant, especially as it is known that all the conferences were placed on an equal basis in respect to their Domestic Missions. If we are to have special agitation for "better terms" in any one Conference the sooner we go back to first principles the better. Our conviction is that some of the Western Conferences—the Montreal for instance—regards themselves as having quiet the heaviest grievance. By all means let us have faith in the Brotherhood. An ecclesiastical union without this is but a pretty figment.

We had the pleasure of attending a Missionary Meeting last week at South Farmington, on the Wilmot Circuit, where a fine audience was present, and a most benevolent spirit prevailed. But for an affliction which obliged us to return, we would have met the Western Deputation the following evening at Lawrence town. We are informed that an immense congregation assembled, and \$100 were secured at the meeting. Mr. Treadwell's circuit enjoys great prosperity; our beloved brother holds the warmest place in the affections of his people.

"The sources of the Texts of the New Testament" is the heading of a fine, scholarly article in *Evangelical Christianity* for November. It is from the pen of Rev. C. H. Paisley, A.M., our Minister at Florenceville, N. B. Mr. Paisley is a regular graduate of the University at Fredericton, and reflects all credit upon that institution. We notice with great satisfaction that our eastern educated young Ministers are among the foremost contributors to the Magazines of our Church. No better evidence of true christian culture could be afforded than this critical and comprehensive discussion of vital questions.

OUR NEWFOUNDLAND LETTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR. Things in this "most ancient colony" are not by any means at their brightest. The month of October, the winding-up day of the Fishery, has come and gone, and the record on the balance-sheet runs on the wrong side. Taken generally has been, indeed.

A POOR VOYAGE.

and that means, grievous loss to the merchants, and bitter wail to hundreds of fishermen. The shore fishery of Leen, in most parts, a failure; the worst known for many years, and the Labrador fishery only a partial success. After the toil of the past season, a man finds himself now heavily in debt, and looks forward to a hard winter, with the terrible anticipation, under the certainty of want. The inevitable suffering is shocking to think of. It is now selling in St. John's at \$3.75 per quintal, out of store a price never reached before in our history, and somewhat on the principle of carrying coals to Newcastle, a cargo of codfish has actually been shipped in Halifax for this port. Experience must soon or later teach us the lesson which we are so reluctant to learn, that the fishery alone can not be relied on to support our growing population, and the sooner this is impressed on people's minds the better. With our hundreds of square miles of noble woods, our thousands of acres of rich farming lands, our valuable and extensive mineral deposits, there ought not to be a beggar among us. And yet, with this wealth lying around and under us, we are poverty-stricken all for want of judicious development.

A LINE OF RAILWAY.

connecting the capital with the most important centres and opening up the interior is our crying need. This long talked of project is beginning to assume something of a definite form. During the past summer and autumn a staff of surveyors have been at work, employed by Government to survey and report upon the projected route, and the bulk of their work is now accomplished. Their official report has not, of course, been yet submitted, but it is well understood that they affirm that there is no difficulty whatever in running a line through the country. So far all is satisfactory; the next point is, Where is the money to build it coming from?

CONEXIONAL MATTERS.

notwithstanding the depression in outside business, appear promising. The President and Ex-President have returned from their Canadiana visit in good health and spirits. Reports from different Circuits are encouraging. Bro. David Guilmy from the South Wales District has been accepted as a candidate and sent to Hants Harbor Circuit, thus filling our last immediate vacancy.

THE BAZAAR.

in aid of George Street Church, St. John's, has proved a success. Fears were entertained that little money would be afford, and that those who had that little would require it to purchase more necessary wares than are generally to be found on bazaar stalls; but these fears have been in great measure disappointed. The bazaar was opened by the President of the Conference at noon on Tuesday, November 9th, the ceremony being honoured by the presence of Lady Hill, (the Governor's lady) Chief Justice Sir Hugh Hoyle, and other dignitaries. There was an extensive and varied display of articles on sale, many of them very beautiful, and the different stalls gave ample evidence of the taste, as well as of the zeal and deftness of the fair fingers that furnished them forth. On Monday, Nov. 15th, a Promenade Concert under the efficient leadership of Mr. Handcock, the choir master, brought the proceedings to a close. The gross amount raised was \$46,670.00 which after deducting expenses leaves net the handsome sum of \$42,220 to relieve the debt on George St. Church.

THE MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.

in St. John's has been a season of no ordinary interest. On Sabbath Nov. 14th, admirable sermons, appropriate to the occasion, were preached in both the Churches. In the morning at George St. the President occupied the pulpit, taking as the subject of his discourse the Mystic River of his disciples' vision, (Ezek. 47, 29.); in the evening Rev. James Dove, Chairman of the Carbonate District, was the preacher, his text being Psalm 2, 8 v. The Promise of the Father. At Gower St. Rev. J. Dove preached in the morning from Acts 14 27th Gospel triumphs among the Gentiles, and in the evening Rev. G. Milligan, M.A., Superintendent of Missions, from Matthew 28, 19-20, the Great Commission.

THE PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

was held on the evening of the following Tuesday in Gower St. Church. The President of the Conference called upon the Committee, Esq., the senior member of the Committee, and a warm friend of Missions, to occupy the chair. In the course of a capital evening address, Mr. Wood stated to a great extent that he