

Correspondence.

Chatham, Miramichi, Aug. 31., 1850.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.—All who wish well to the cause of religion, and who have been acquainted with the religious aspect of this section of the Lord's vineyard, for a few years past, will be happy to hear that the Lord is graciously encouraging us, from time to time, with tokens for good. Since I came to this Circuit the congregations, with one or two exceptions, have been as large as could be expected, and in many instances deeply serious and attentive. The class and prayer meetings are much better attended than they were some time ago, and are seasons of refreshing to many. I trust that the Lord is about to pour out his blessing on the good seed which has been sown by his servants, that they who have sown and they who reap may rejoice together. In accordance with the request of the District meeting, that I should visit the Bathurst Circuit, before the ordination of brother Prince, to administer the sacraments, I left home for that Circuit on Friday the 23rd inst. and arrived at Bathurst in the evening. Having partaken of the kindness and hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Prince and exchanged greetings with a few old friends, I retired to rest reflecting upon the many pleasing and the many painful scenes through which I had passed during the three years spent on that Circuit, until "tired nature's sweet restorer" robbed me of consciousness. On Saturday morning I preached at Tatagouche, baptized an infant, and administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Lord was truly in the midst of us and it was a time of holy rejoicing to many. On Sunday morning I preached at New Brandon to a large and attentive congregation, baptized a child, and administered the Lord's Supper. "It was good to be there." In the afternoon I preached at Salmon Beach and administered the Lord's Supper. And there also we were not without tokens of the Lord's presence. In the evening I preached in Bathurst to a large and deeply serious congregation. God was manifestly present. But He condescended to manifest himself more graciously to his people while they gathered around his table and commemorated his dying love. It was a season not soon to be forgotten. We were deeply humbled while renewing our covenant engagements with God. On Monday evening I returned home weary in my master's work, but not of it. What I heard, saw and enjoyed during my absence from home had the tendency to confirm my impression that the state and prospects of Methodism on the Bathurst Circuit are highly encouraging. It would have been highly gratifying to me to have visited my old and much loved friends on the Restigouche part of the Circuit, but having engagements to meet on my own I was obliged to deny myself the gratification. Not wishing to tire your patience, I remain yours, &c. C. LOCKHART

To the Editor of The Wesleyan.

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, September 14, 1850.

CONFERENCE INTELLIGENCE.

(CONTINUED.)

Monday, Aug. 19.—Auxiliary Fund.—Mr. Scott presented the report of the state of this fund, from which it appeared that, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made by the agitators of the connexion to injure it, the deficiency of contributions in the classes as compared with the previous year only amounted to £208 18s. 4d., and the deficiency in the June subscriptions was still smaller. Nevertheless, in consequence of the number of claimants on the fund, and of the insufficiency of the ordinary income to meet the claims presented, it was stated that there was a total deficiency including the balances of previous years, of about £1,550.

A conversation then took place respecting the best mode of meeting this deficiency. A considerable number of Ministers thought it would be well rather to impose an annual contribution of a guinea upon each Minister, than to allow the claimants on the fund to suffer, in consequence of any reduction in their limited allowances.—Others expressed their opinion, that if the real necessities, designed to be met by the fund, were more generally made known, the existing debt would be speedily removed, and a large regular income secured. It was finally determined to postpone any new regulation until next year.

The very cordial thanks of the Conference were also voted to Miss Rothwell and Richard Crook, Esq., for the handsome manner in which they had, as executors of the late Peter Rothwell, Esq., secured to the fund the annual interest of the sum of £900 out of the estate of that lamented gentleman.

The thanks of the Conference were also passed to the District and Circuit Officers of the fund, and to the Societies and Congregations that had contributed to its support.

Address to the Irish Conference.—This address was read by Dr. HANNAH, the Secretary, after which

Mr. WAUGH was called on to address the Conference. Having thanked them for their kind reception of himself and colleagues, as the representatives of the Irish Conference, he expressed his regret that they had not been favoured with greater spiritual prosperity in Ireland.—The afflictions through which they had passed were fully known to none but themselves. They had been stricken at the very root, and, in some instances, almost uprooted, by famine, pestilence, emigration, and other evils. In the South of Ireland, there were no manufactures to aid in supporting the population, and afflictions had abounded among them. Many who possessed property had suffered severely; and, when the bonds of society appeared to be loosened, some persons had taken advantage of that circumstance to create greater sufferings. Emigration interfered with the prosperity of the cause, not only as it affected their numbers at present, but as to the future: families removed together; and thus the sources whence the future success might be derived were dried up. Still, however, there were multitudes of people who knew not Christ; and they were determined to employ their best exertions to save them. As Methodist Ministers, the Brethren in Ireland were resolved to live and labour together. There was a complete oneness of feeling among them; and there was an increasing spirituality among the people. Notwithstanding all their difficulties, he hoped they would still make way. They were prepared to go with this Conference, whether in weal or in woe. If they suffered, this Conference would be prepared to take part in their sufferings; and if they were prosperous, and this Conference prospered, they would sympathize with their Brethren in this country. They still felt that God was with them. Hundreds had been converted during the year. They had experienced divine help in times past, and they trusted in God for all time to come.

These sentiments were heartily concurred in by Dr. APPLEBEE, and Mr. MATTHEWS, the other Representative of the Irish Conference.

The Ex-President, and Doctors NEWTON and HANNAH bore high testimony to the fidelity, zeal, and usefulness of the preachers in Ireland, and commended them to the sympathy and prayers of their brethren in England.

The answer to the address was then read and adopted.

Educational Committee.—The report of the committee was submitted to the Conference. It appeared that there had been already expended on the erections at Westminster £12,000—not including the price of land; and a considerable unexpected expense had been incurred in the foundations. To complete the work, and to obtain the Government grant of £7,000, it was absolutely necessary to raise—between this date and March next—a sum, additional to the funds now in hand, of £4,000. If this were done these noble premises would be free from debt. So far the Committee and Connexion would enter upon their undertaking auspiciously. But even then, provision must be made for the efficient working of the Institution, especially in the first instance. This consideration had led some friends of Christian Education to make a liberal offer. Mr. Heald, M.P., on condition that the sum of £10,000—instead of £4,000—were raised, would himself give £500; Mr. Farmer, and Mr. Robinson Kay, would each contribute £500 upon the same condition.

Mr. SCOTT observed—that it was needful to look favourably at this proposition, inasmuch as if the Education premises were free from debt—and they must be free to obtain the Government grant—the Committee had nothing in hand, with which to commence operations; that the time had arrived when the Church must care for the Christian education of youth; that every effort had been, and no doubt would be, made to set up systems of Education irrespective of, if not positively hostile to, revealed religion; but that the Christianity of the country, he was happy to say, was as yet sufficiently powerful to resist such projects. He hoped it ever would be. They must, however, not merely oppose that which was evil, but convince those who were not unwilling to taunt religious men with doing nothing, that they were in earnest. The Committee had

reason to know that the interest taken by our own Connexion in this department was growing, and that in proportion as the object and principles of the Normal Institution were known, they would be appreciated and supported. From the reports of previous years, as well as from that now before the Conference, it appeared that where Day-schools had been fairly commenced and vigorously prosecuted, many of them had—even in small Circuits—been successful.

The premises at Westminster would be a centre from which would go forth Christian men and women to all parts of Great Britain and the world, qualified to impart a godly education to millions of the young in all lands. This was a cheering prospect, and one which they had every reason to believe would, by the divine blessing, be realised. He hoped the day was not distant when every Wesleyan chapel would have in connection with it a day-school, in efficient and successful operation.

After considerable conversation, it was agreed that Deputations should visit the principal towns and cities of Great Britain, to impart information on the question of Day-school education,—to raise a sum of £10,000, in the first place, to meet the Government grant of £7,000 from the Committee of Council on Education; and, in the next place, to enable the Committee to enter on their great enterprise with confidence.

Thanks were then accorded to the Committee and officers of the Institution for their very efficient and acceptable services during the past year; and, at a subsequent sitting, suitable appointments were made for the year ensuing.

EVENING SITTING.—Missions.—The general resolutions of the Missionary Committee of Review were reported, and the District Missionary Deputations appointed.

The Theological Institution.—The report of this Institution was read and approved. On the vote of thanks to the President (Dr. Bunting) being passed, Dr. Bunting observed, that the services he had rendered were comparatively feeble, but in consequence of the presence of the very able men who were engaged in the two branches of the Institution, these services were rendered the less necessary. He had hoped for relief. Considering his growing feebleness he coveted repose, freedom from all matters not immediately connected with his personal preparation for that eternal world to which he was hastening. He hoped that next year they would be able to supersede the office he held in the Institution. It had, no doubt, been needful at first; but now, with such efficient men as God had given them, perhaps it might be dispensed with. He had little hope of attending the next Conference, and had been led to look solemnly on the present one as probably the last he should attend; yet he should be thankful, if it please God to give him the privilege, of somewhere meeting his brethren once again.

A vote of thanks to the governor and Tutors was passed, and acknowledged by Doctor Hannah, Mr. Thos. Jackson and Mr. Farrar.

Several Committees were then appointed. In connexion with their nomination, Dr. BUNTING expressed the strong views which he entertained of the great importance of bringing the appointment of such Committees before the Conference by the officers of their several departments. There must, he observed, be some nomination after all; but he thought it would be well if the officers of the several departments would consult the lay members of the Committees at their meetings, as to the nomination for the year of suitable persons; and that thus they might have Committees nominated partly by Ministers and partly by laymen.

After a brief conversation, a motion was passed that this course should be adopted.

Tuesday, Aug. 20.—Canadian Affairs.—The address from the Canadian to the British Conference was read by the Secretary. After which, Dr. Alder, who in the event of Dr. Ryerson's public duties preventing him from visiting England at the present time, had been unanimously appointed by the special committee of the Canadian Conference to act as the representative of the Wesleyan Church in Canada, proceeded to lay before the Conference various statements illustrative of the present state of Methodism in that portion of the empire.

The answer to the Canadian address was then read and adopted.

Dr. ALDER said that it would have been gratifying to the brethren of the Canadian Conference and productive of great advantage to their common Methodism, if the Conference could

have appointed a suitable person to proceed to the province, and preside over the Canadian Conference next year. He was impressed with the desirableness of maintaining the union which had been formed, by such a medium of communication; but it being difficult to find a suitable minister who could disengage himself from his ordinary work long enough for that purpose, he would propose that the General Superintendent of their Missions in that country the Rev. Enoch Wood should be appointed to preside at the next Conference.

This proposal having been seconded it was unanimously approved.

The Committee to whom had been referred the consideration of several cases of Appeal presented their report, which was adopted. The final reading of the Stations was taken up, and after some conversation they were confirmed.

Trials at Leaders' Meetings.—The case of persons refusing to plead, when brought before Leaders' Meetings, again occupied the consideration of the Conference, having been postponed at a former sitting, when the Stations were brought in for consideration.

After some discussion, a declaratory resolution was adopted, to the effect, that if the party accused refused either to admit or deny the charge, he was not entitled to demand proof; but his refusal should be considered as an acknowledgment of his offence; and in such cases he should not be entitled to demand proof, unless the Superintendent, in the exercise of his discretion, thought proper to admit of it, for the fuller satisfaction, of all parties.

THE NUMBERS IN SOCIETY were then reported, exhibiting a net increase in Great Britain of 10,063.

In Ireland there had been a net decrease of 1,114, chiefly occasioned by emigrations; thus showing a net increase in Great Britain and Ireland of 8,949. On the Foreign Missions an increase was reported of 115, making a total net increase throughout the Connexion of 9,904. In explanation of the return of numbers on the Mission Stations, it was stated that the Domestic Missions in Western Canada, though included in the returns of the Mission House, were not included in the returns now made to the Conference; otherwise the increase on the Mission Stations would have appeared much more considerable.

The Report of the Committee on Circuit Memorials was presented.

A discussion ensued, which occupied upwards of two hours, in the course of which Dr. BRAMMONT, Mr. W. M. BUNTING, Mr. S. D. WADDEY, Mr. M. McDONALD, Mr. FOWLER, Mr. GEORGE TRENER, Mr. ARTHUR, Mr. HAYDOX, Mr. PREST, Mr. S. JACKSON, Mr. T. JACKSON, Dr. BUNTING, Dr. NEWTON, Mr. SCOTT, and others expressed their sentiments. All appeared to be agreed on the necessity and importance of upholding the fundamental principles of the Connexion relating to the pastoral office and authority; to the jurisdiction of District Meetings; and the final jurisdiction of the Conference; and several of the speakers declared their fixed determination to live or die by those principles. A diversity of opinion, however, existed respecting the desirableness of referring some matters of detail, not affecting such fundamental principles, to a Committee to be assembled in the course of the year. This was strongly urged by several members of the Conference, on the ground that it would meet the views of many sound and well-disposed Methodists, who thought that some alterations in matters of detail might be useful. It was, however, as strongly opposed by others, on the ground that it would excite expectations which could not be realised, and give a handle to agitating and divisive movements, which would disturb the peace of the Connexion, and would turn away the minds of many from more spiritual and useful objects. Ultimately, the resolutions submitted to the Conference, were unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT observed, that he had not seen a more unanimous vote during the whole Conference.

Certain other resolutions, expressive of the judgment of the Conference respecting the agitations which had prevailed during the year, were next submitted for consideration, and, after some remarks, were adopted by the Conference.

The Closing Proceedings.—The very cordial thanks of the Conference were passed to those friends in and around London, who had hospitably entertained the Ministers during their attendance at the Conference—to the Ministers of the London Circuits, for their attention to the arrangements connected with it—and to Mr. Beech-

and of the singing at the Confer-

Mr. P. A. WATSON presented the report of the last Conference appointed a committee of proceedings for the preparation of a business of District in

At a short conversation, it was resolved the matter should be re-committed, with a view to print it, and supply the Officers (as therewith).

Mr. JOHN FARRAR next proceeded to the Journals at the close of which the acts of the Canadian Conference, the British Conference, and the British Conference, were acknowledged and confirmed by the vote of Legal Handrick. The Journal was signed by the President and the Secretary, at half-past six.

The Hymn on page 497 was sung, concluding—

Where he appeared, we met.

Mr. SCOTT and Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON in prayer, and the PRESIDENT presided the benediction, a few minutes before six o'clock.

We have occurred much of our appreciate the Conference Intelligence. It is of sincere gratification to every genuine an, that so great unanimity has characterized confessional judgment, upon matters of est importance which have ever come consideration. To agitators and enemies connexion this is evidently a mortifying exciting their ire, and stimulating their species of misrepresentation and party But "God even our own God will bless despite of heartless appeals to stop the which plainly means, "disorganize" the constructed machinery which is widely the blessings of the Gospel at home and the work will go on, "and all the earth shall fear him." For this let prayer be offered to Him who "is worth of man to praise him, and the remnant be hath restrained."

DEATH OF LOUIS PHILIPPE

We would wish to do more than mention the death of such a man as Louis-Philippe to the highest honours—early in of high military station, and feeling surfrance and glory, we see him suddenly from his proud position—an exile—a foreign lands, humbly, though honour played in the instruction of the young the severest privations on the Continent, and in the forests of America, throne of France. It is not for us history, and to eulogize or deprecate as a sovereign. Some accuse him of and some of imbecility. Others laud personification of sagacity, and the virtue. But while we leave to other pronouncing upon his political character, as religious journalists, draw tary reflections from the more prominent of his life, and from his recent death the mutability of earthly fortune. Duc de Chartres assumed the proconsul, from his relation to the Royal France, and from his known power he might, one would think, not unanticipated that the sun of prosperity upon his path, and brighten his glorious career. But no,—he demystified the throne of France, and he to fly from his Royal home. The subject of those vicissitudes which space to relate, and with the hints many of our readers are doubtless might scarcely presume, with propriety the time would ever come which would the sceptre of his native land was. The universal voice of the claimed him a citizen King. Su might at least believe that the people was about to govern, tired of their fruitless discontent, would permit his declining years in peace. If he was deceived. The mass of a force was again upheaved by the local faction, and Louis was obliged throne, and seek in England that which was denied him among his and there, at length, in a land of closes his eventful life. In his elementary lesson of the insufficiency to birth to ensure happiness, and to shield from misfortune.

Another reflection suggested to what the rest of all men are in the