Travellers Guide-Toronto Time. GREAT WESTERN BAILWAY. P.M. 12 00 10 55A.M. 2 00 GRAND TRUNK BAST A.M. 5 87 . 12 07 P.M. P.M. P.M. 12 07 3 52 6 22 9 37.A.M 11 52.A.M. 7 42 А.М. А.М. Р.М. 12 15 7 30 7Р.М 12 30 5 15 10 А.М 11 50 6 15 NORTHERN RAILWAY The Baily Recorder. TORONTO, TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1870.

### THE "RECORDER

Will be issued daily till the close of Conference, and will contain ample reports of all the proceedings. Price 50 cents. Orders to be addressed to S. ROSE,

## NOTICE !

The Treasurers of the various Connexional Funds are requested to meet the Financial Secretaries at the Mission Rooms at 2 o'clock Stationing Committee to guard the interests of to-day, (Tuesday).

Toronto.

OUR limited space will not allow us to pubhish in to-day's issue outlines of all the sermons preached last Sabbath. Several will have to stand over till to-morrow.

## INVITATIONS.

The business of Conference is usually recorded in the Minutes in the form of question and answer : and it would seem as if a new question would soon have to be added to the besides these, "the Bishop residing in the State, list. viz. : "What ministers are invited to all presiding Elders, Presidents, and Professors Circuits for the ensuing year !" The practice of "inviting" is rapidly extending among us, and it would be well if the whole question. with the consequences which it involves, were carefully pondered both by ministers and for a popular preacher to be invited two or even talking must be done before work commences. the greatest empires of the earth, apart from the The surprise with which Saul's conversion was three years in advance.

not without foundation; and the only remedy they are strong and despise the thought of weakness. is a firm maintenance, by the Stationing Committee, of the principle that the interests of the work are to be considered before the interests of particular men.

There is another circumstance. bearing upon this question of invitations, which is not without weight. It is said, and not without truth, that although no invitation may be given by a Circuit, yet considerable influence is often exerted for or against an appointment by individuals. Now, if any outside influence is to be exerted in the matter of appointments at all, it is doubtless better that it should emanate from the mature judgment of a Quarterly Board, than from the preferences or caprice of an individual.

Then, as regards the men there is, after all, an element of justice in an arrangement which encourages invitations, for it is argued that the men who, by faithful devotion to their work render themselves worthy of the Church's confidence, will always be in demand, and thus an incentive to earnestness and fidelity will be supplied. Altogether the question is one which legislation cannot very well settle ; and if the practice is to continue, it will rest with the the work on the one hand, and the just rights

of the preachers on the other.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS

"PENNSYLVANIA METHODIST STATE CONVEN-TION.—The General Committee appointed by the Philadelphia, Central Pennsylvania, and Wyoming Conferences has decided in favor of holding a State Convention at Williamsport, to commence on Tuesday, September 6, and to continue three days. It is to be composed of two delegates from each pastoral charge, and in colleges and seminaries under our control. and Agents of benevolent societies, shall be exofficio members of the Convention .- N. C. Advocate.

sal that, we understand, it is no unusual thing its convention, and an indefinite amount of tablishment, extension, and final overthrow of upon his work.

discontinued, while of the 165 ordained minis-

ters, 35 are not engaged in clerical work of any

Let our Baptist brethern adopt the Itinerant

THE CHURCHES ON SUNDAY.

ELM STREET.

and fully supported by scripture. 'The preacher's

manner was earnest but somewhat restrained. We

hope the influence of the sermon was salutory, as it

ADELAIDE STREET.

The sermon on Sabbath morning, May 29th, was

preached by Rev. Mr. Griffin, Chairman of the Guelph

District. The text selected was 2 Cor. xii. chapter

and 10th verse : "For when I am weak, then am I

strong." In the introduction the parodoxical char-

acter of the text was alluded to, the true exposition

being-when I realize my own weakness then by the

I. The fact or doctrine of the text is contrary to

and do cherish exalted ideas of their own superiority

omnipotence of faith I can do all things.

was eminently evangelical and scriptural.

All who have not the grace of God have no sympathy with the apostle's doclaration in the text. There is much in the achievement of genius, in the discoverics ceremonies of the Jewish Church. The Jews of science that appears to set aside the text. A man who can do what he pleases with the world scorns the idea of admitting that he is weak. II. The truthfulness of the apostle's declaration.

We need a just appreciation of our weakness. This will be obtained by a clear vision of God, for in the light of such manifestations we discover our own light of such manifestations we discover our own feeblences, and such a sense of weakness is an essen-tial element of strength. This weakness is but an-other name for humility. There is much in history to prove that when God's people were weak then they were strong. Was John Bunyan weak in his prison home ? Too weak to break the bars of his prison, to home? Too weak to break the bars of his prison, to reach the ear of justice, or the heart of pity; yet in such days and years of weakness he developed true strength to liberate captive thousands and send a thousand rills of consolation through our suffering world? Is persecution a sign of weakness ? then Paul was weak, yet in his weakness he accomplished great and mighty works. Is crucifixion a sign of weakness? then Jeaus was weak when he suffered at the hands then Jesus was weak when he suffered at the hands. of his enemies, yet in the hour of his most apparent gigantic mental powers. weakness he lifted the whole world up to God, when But a great change wa

so weak that he could not save himself he saved others. Is death weakness? This may be the extrame of human weakness; but there is no condition into which the believer may be brought but he may be above circumstances. When you are weak then you may wield a power before which the world gives [Since the foregoing was put in type, a full report

of Bro. G's sermon has come to hand. It will appear to-morrow. -- EDTTOR RECORDER. ]

# RICHMOND STREET.

SERMON BY THE RET. J. H. JOHNSON, M.A. OF QUEBRC.

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel : for I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."-Acts ix. 15, 16.

Few things, my brethren, are better calculated to interest the mind, or excite the attenthose who have rendered themselves famous for in the civil and social conditions of society, and the indelible traces of their extraordinary career

Of late years Conventions for religious pur- renowned individuals with whose immediate his- received by all parties, may be easily imagined. gregation. Don't mind the execution of discipline, The disciples at first distrusted him, and Ananias thought that Gcd himself must be mistaken in the man, when he sent him with a message to lified for the appreciation of true greatness, and Saul. But Saul's former companions in iniquity were not long in determining what course to pursue towards one who had so recently turned eavenly vision; but showed first unto them at Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles. that they should repent and turn to God, and do works mest for repentance, therefore the Jews caught me in the temple and went about to kill The conversion of this man was a signal defeat to the enemies of Christianity, and the occasion of triumph to the Christian Church. the Holy Land, was henceforth to embrade the whole Gentile world. Let us inquire what obstacles in pursuance of this mission, the Apostle had to encounter. hemselves by doing something remarkable for These were twofold, moral and physical. Under the benefit of mankind, were elevated to a region the former were classed : 1st, the civil authority, vested in heathen officials; 2ndly, pagan priests, naturally invested in maintaining systems which Paul laboured to overthrow; 3rdly, a host of pasgods themselves. They were supposed to be in- sions and prejudices existing in the minds of the erested in the state of the world, and to preside people, arising from a variety of causes, and join the Masons? which the new religion was calculated at once to bitter persecutions; and, 4thly, the enmity and active opposition of the various schools of philosophers, who were jealous of the claims of Christianity, and of the readiness with which many of the people embraced it. Under the head of physical difficulties were mentioned labours and persecutions, with a particular reference to Paul's own summary, given in 2 Cor. xi. ity exists in the breast of a truly great man, to addition to all these things, the Apostle was sub-23 28 : "In labours more abundant." &c. accomplish something for the benefit of his race. ject to all the infirmities incident to human nature. The pride of his heart required to be subdued; the thorn in his his anxiety for his brethren and kinsmen caused

men. He was of the Pharisaic sect, and, like the rest of his brethren, prided himself upon a strict adherence to all the outward rites and were proverbially tenacious of their religious opinions. The proudest of their sects were the Pharisees, amongst whom even Saul of Tarsus shone conspicuously for his bigotry and exclu-

siveness. He was instructed from his childhood in their peculiar tenets, and educated with great attachment to the national faith. In a literary point of view/ he was not a whit behind the most illustrious of his contemporaries. The disciple of Gamaliel, one of the most celebrated doctors of his day, Saul was deeply versed in language, had acquired a vast fund of informa tion, and had the art of reasoning in the highest d gree of perfection. To the attainment of considerable influence his religious zeal very largely contributed. Touching the righteous ness which is by the law, he was indeed blame wide field before him for the exercise of his

But a great change was about to take place in this man's character and conduct, and in the pursuits of his life. After the ascension of Christ, his apostles, in compliance with his parting in junction, entered upon the great work of preaching the doctrine of salvation by his cross. As this doctrine implicated those who had put to

death Jesus of Nazareth, who, they affirmed, was a mere pretender to the Messiahship, and con-tradicted the notions which the Hebrew divines entertained concerning the Son of God, its propagators inourred the displeasure of the Jews, and there were soon arrayed against them the most formidable efforts of enraged power.

Amongst the most furious of the persecutors was Saul of Tarsus. Having received authority for a general arrest, he proceeded to seize upon both men and women, so far as possible, com-pelling them to blaspheme the name of Christ. When that holy man Stephen suffered martyrdom, Saul was present, consenting to his death and so inveterate was he against the Christians, that his very breath is represented as having been "threatenings and slaughter" against the

followers of Jesus. "I punished them oft," himself said, "in every synagogue, and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them tion, than the contemplation of distinguished even to strange cities." It was while acting characters. History abounds in examples of under the authority of this bloody commission, immense important changes they have effected company so suddenly and unexpectedly that they were all prostrated to the earth; when lo! a voice in the Hebrew tongue cries out, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" He inquires, "Who which which are to be seen throughout a large art thou, Lord ?" to which the voice responds, portion of the world. The mind seems to dwell "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest."

ventions. Every interest, from women's rights so direct a tendency to enlist its affections and notification of his mission to the Gentiles; and rupting innovation or laxity in public worship, people. In England the practice is so univer- up to the government of the nation, must have engage its admiration. To read of the rise, es- after his conversion and baptism, he entered if you find it is generally popular, no mat-

And the field of labour, heretofore confined to half-a-dozen circuits just before Conference time, you could not "bring grist to your mill" by uniting with some secret society. Hadn't you better arouse and inflame, taking the form of the most to digest for the present; when you are in want flesh, whatever that was, gave him, if not supervision of our respected Chairman, Rev. Charles distress of body, certainly anguish of mind, and Lavell. The investigation of moral character, &c.,

Correspondence.

#### HOW TO BECOME & FASHIONABLE PREACHER.

#### To the Editor of the "Recorder."

In all your circuits pay special court to the wealthy and influential-never mind the poor, they cannot do much towards filling your pockets or ad vancing your popularity. In your pastoral visits you need not bore the people too much with religion Prattle with the young ladies and joke with the young men, and be sure to fall in with all their whims and projects, whether conducive to piety or not. Don't press any one too much relative to his personal religious state-it isn't liked. Prayer in less. And considering all the circumstances of families is not often convenient. Banter the young his position, it may be assumed that he had a folks about getting married, and in a delicate way families is not often convenient. Banter the young pledge them to get you to do the job. The more work of that kind you get the better-for two rea-

sons : 1st, there is the marriage fee; and 2nd, the popularity it will give you. The more you marry, especially if you go a good way to do it just under the nose of the proper pastor of the parties, the more consequence it will give you in the eyes of the people generally. When you get a large fee. tell of it in company, it will enhance their estimate of your importance, and others will think they must give you as much when their turn comes Get the parties to pay for its publication in a paper, that will spread your fame all the wider. Never reprove any one of respectability, it hurts their feelings and will hurt your popularity -- unless, indeed, it is some poor falling person whom everyone is down upon; in which case, get up a character for plain dea ling upon him. Follow the same rule with regard to public preaching, don't come out on evils that prevail in your own congre-gation, but be especially bold against errors and vices a long way off. A sermon on the errors of Romanism among a certain class of fighting Pro-testants might, by chance, get you an address and a presentation. Be careful not to put too much theological matter into your sermons, it will fatigue on his way to Damascus, in the company of the most of people to follow you, as they don't others like minded, that a light above the come to church to learn anything. While you the most of people to follow you, as they don't the number and brilliancy of their exploits, the brightness of the sun, shone around the whole avoid going deep, you may be as dark as you like Many will think you are a "great larned man." In a general way, skim on the surface, it will be easier for both you and your hearers. The matter is mostly in words, whether there are any ideas corresponding with them or not. Therefore, pick up all the high sounding ones and all the senti-The Our American Cousins are great on Con- with pleasurable emotions upon a subject having awful truth now flashes upon Saul's mind that he mental terms you can find, they will be your very ter though it may outrage the feelings and sadden the hearts of some of the most devout in your conthat is a matter now obsolete ; instance those exploded prohibitions of our "General Rules" relative to the "wearing of gold and costly apparel" (although it is contained in the Bible) " and the and the singing those songs and reading those books which do not tend to the knowledge and love of God." To act on the latter might spoil the "penny readings." Keep your class-neglecting, worldly-mind-ed stewards in your highest courts of discipline if they are liberal contributors. As there are some men of decided talents who do much good and receive great applause by popular lecturing, it might add to your fame (never mind the good) by getting up a few lectures with high sounding titles, whether there is anything more than "words of learned length and thundering sound" in your lectures when delivered or not. Play "fast and loose" with it will bring you into notice as a very popular preacher who is in great demand. Keep yourself as young as you can, for if you don't your game is all up. Don't talk about anything which happened twenty-five or thirty years ago-the people will say "that old fellow ought to be superannuated." If you can't conceal grey hairs any other way, dye your hair and whiskers. Look around and see if

It is believed by not a few that the practice poses have been frequent, and with good reis open to grave objections, and, if continued, sults. During the present year the Methodists is likely to prove an element of weakness, if have been "falling into line," as the above exnot of discord, in our Connexional machinery. tract indicates. Well, the idea is not a bad In the first place, it is believed that it does not one. It may be true that at these Conventions much that is worthy of his attentive regard in a Apostle, "that I was not disobedient unto the accord with that tacit understanding by which a good deal of "gas" is expended, but at the the claims of both ministers and Circuits, as same time a great deal of Christian earnestregards appointments, are vested in the hands ness is generated, and the power of the church of a third party-the Stationing Committee. brought to bear more directly upon the great By this arrangement Circuits waive all right moral and religious questions of the day. to choose a preacher, and the preachers waive Other latitudes besides Pennsylvania might be all right to choose a Circuit, and both agree to benefited by a good Methodist "Convention." abide by the decision of a Committee appointed "IN MAINE, the Baptists have 263 churches,

for the very purpose. But if the practice of "inviting" is to be encouraged, then this tacit but 110 of these are without regular pastors, understanding is at once abandoned; for if and during the past year 7 have been definitely Circuits have the right to choose their ministers. ministers have an equal right to choose their kind Circuits.

Then again, the practice of inviting often plan, and soon they will have no cause to cominflicts serious injury on individual ministers. plain of churches without pastors, or pastors Let us suppose a case, (though, like the account without churches, of Dives and Lazarus, there are reasons for

regarding it more as a history than a parable) At a certain Quarterly Meeting, the question of a supply for next year comes up, and Bros. A. B. and C. are nominated. Then the merits -and demerits too-of each candidate are canvassed. Bro. A.'s friends are anxious that he should be chosen, and accordingly they proceed to "show cause" why B. and C. should not be elected. If these brethren have a weak the Foreranner, "Behold the Lamb of God which noint it is magnified; if there is any rumour taketh away the sin of the world." After showing afloat to their disadvantage it is seized upon how the Baptist answered in "spirit and power" to and made the most of, and thus a prejudice is the description of the "Elias that was to come." the created against them which may cling to them all through life. We have known more than divinity and vicarious sufferings for all men, all of one case in which the reputation of most esti-initial initial mable brethren has been seriously injured by world." an unkind remark dropped in a Quarterly Meeting. Furthermore, the practice is one which puts

temptation in the way of the ministers themselves-temptation to negotiate with one another for a change of Circuits. Ministers

are but men, and it is hardly to be expected that any of them would choose the worst class of Circuits ; and if appointments are to go by invitation, why should they not seek invitations to good Circuits rather than to poor ones! The result of all this is easily foreseen.

Still further, the practice of inviting may prove the thin end of a wedge to split up the itinerant system altogether, for if the right to invite for three years be conceded, the time may not be far distant when the right to invite for a longer period will be demanded.

in order to success. Man stands at the head of all Still, there are two sides to every question, power : none are stronger. If the existance of God be denied, as taught through revelation, then the and there are reasons sometimes urged on behalf of invitations that are worthy of consideration., It is said that important Circuits who the result of inherent power. Practical unbelief igdo not invite, but trust to the judgment of the nores God and leaves one to depend upon his own resources. Man's natural constitution prompts him Stationing Committee, sometimes find themto this, while he feels it almost impossible to confess selves unfairly dealt with, and receive a very weakness when conscious of strength. Hence the cated with all those national predilections as Paul was compelled to salaries to those Bishops who refuse to take the oath

tory such events are intimately connected, could afford but little satisfaction to a mind duly quawhich seeks an appropriate theme for its exercise. Man may see much to admire in nature, general survey of the revolutions of state, and may look with surprise upon the successive changes which the political condition of countries has undergone ; but it is only while reflect ing upon the celebrated characters with wnose mmediate history such events are intimately connected, that he is struck with admiration and awe. One of the most interesting studies of mankind, is man himself.

Ancient philosophy taught that the souls of reat men, and of all those who distinguished of superior bliss amongst the constellations of the heavens, or to a seat amongst the immortal over the affairs of mankind. Temples and altars were in many instances erected to their memo-

ries, and they were worshipped as deities. But apart from the prospect of divine honors. there is something in the breast of man which caused him to aspire after glory. There is an inward sensation of pleasure in the acquisition of

an honorable distinction. An inherent prosper-The service in the forenoon was conducted by the Rev. James Preston, Chairman of the Brantford District. The preliminary services, hymns, prayer, and lessons, were all preparatory to the subject, And when we view the actions of men in this which was founded on the glorious aunouncement of light; look at the emotions which have produced them; and ascertain the principles which have actuated them in the performance of their deeds, -then, and not till then, shall we be enabled to form a correct estimate of the praise to preacher gave a running exposition of the text, show. which they are entitled. What military warrior. ing how that Christ, by meekness, spotlessness, those that decked the brow of Wilberforce, who effected the emancipation of thousands of his He closed with an earnest exhortation to race from the excoriating chains of slavery?

> eventually receive their appropriate deserts. As the contemplation of great men has ever been attended with interest, and the whole history of their lives may be both entertaining and

instructive, I have selected to bring before you on this occasion, my brethren, for your profit, as well as admiration, one who stands unrivalled in the historian's page, as the honored instrument of a revolution in the social and religious conditions

from having yet ceased, are still increasing in magnitude and importance, and will not cease throughout eternity. Such an example of unparalleled heroism I present to you in St. Paul, universal opinion or sentiment. It is true men must the great apostle to the Gentiles. In the career of every great man there are

three things deserving of shecial attention : 1st, his early life, or that period of his existence which was prior to the commencement of his public distinction; 2nd, the circumstances and tongue of the infidel cannot utter the text. The in- exploits by which he obtained his celebrity; fidel feels that what he accomplishes he performs as and 3rd, as a necessary condition of an enviable reputation, the motives by which he was actuated. By observing this order in the life of Paul. we shall have a connected view of all that in worthy of our admiration in it.

him much sorrow of heart. Next were considered the motives by which he was actuated in entering upon so arduous a work, and persisting in it to the end. The usual for example, ever won laurels so unfading as motives which influence worldly heroes, were referred to such as wealth, honor, and power, and it was shown that these could not have been secured by Paul in the course he adopted, but on the contrary were abandoned by him, while Nothing can permanently flourish, or be durably their very opposites in a worldly sense, were inadvantageous, which is founded on any principle evitably his portion. The true motive of the radically wrong. Truth only is immutable, and Apostle was found in one word-Christ. the unchangeable principles of equity must for my name's sake." "The love of Christ constraineth me." "-I count not my life dear unto me, so that I may win Christ, and be found in him." "For me to live is Christ." "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live," &c.

In conclusion several facts were established

1. That in Saul's conversion, we have an unanswerable argument in support of the truth of Christianity. Considering his great natural and acquired abilities, his religious education, his manifest conscientiousness and zeal while in that of his race, the consequences of which so far celebrated journy to Dsmascus, the presence of others equally sincere, at midday, the light 'above the brightness of the sun," the miraculous power, the audible voice of the "Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto him in the way," the great change which took place in the man, and his persistence till old age,-we have an array of facts, establishing the divinity of our religion. 2. The wisdom of God in selecting such a man for such a work. The disciples would surely never have thought of taking the foremost man in the enemy's ranks, and placing him in such a position. But God did this, and the right man was found in the right place. 3. Learn the superiority of a crown of glory over an earthly crown, and the advantage of

godliness.

The above is as much advice as you will be able of any further counsel apply to yours, faithfully,

Ontario, May, 1870

GODERICH DISTRICH.

To the Editor of the " Recorder."

The annual meeting of this District took place in the town of Goderich, on Tuesday, the 17th May. Every member of the District was present. The business moved along admirably under the judicious was satisfactory except in one case. The returns of the Circuits and Missions were of a gratifying character. The District will return an increase of members. There is a demand for extension in our work. Several new churches have been erected and others enlarged during the year. Clinton asks to become a station this year, the country work to be constituted a Gircuit with two men. There is a proposition to create a new Mission in Colborne and Ashfield. There is another proposal to form a new District. This is highly desirable for the more efficient management and supervision of the work. One pleasing feature of our second day's session was the large number of intelligent laymen present. Men of real mental force, solid judgment and business tact. We valued their suggestions and honour their counsels. Another special feature of our meeting, was the blessed unction that attended the spiritual exercises, and the unanimity which characterized the deliberations of the brethren.

T. CLEWORTH, Secretary.

The opponents of the infallibility in the Council were to hold a conference in Rome, preparatory to the opening of the debate on the 10th

The Pope sends his Lenten golden rose, this year, to the Empress of Austria, as having manifested the most religious zeal. Last year it went to the famous Isabella, whom Spain spued out for her vices.

The Congregationalist says that on a late Sabbath some 40 of the cadets at the Annapolis Naval Aca-demy, who had been deficient in their lessons, were marched off to the recitation room and compelled to study two hours under the eye of an officer.

Cardinal Antonelli has replied to the vote of the Austria leading the opposition among the powers." And matters are looking the same way even in Spain. In reply to the anxious inquiries of certain Depu to the new Constitution

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