

The cloud of the Divine presence rested on school house, shanty, barn, wigwam, and grove. Of this and that and many a district of Canada, it could be said, "The word of the Lord was published throughout all the region." "There were suspicions in monopolist churchmen, monopolist educationists, monopolist politicians and patriots, and some of their gentlemanly utterances make one remember the clerical and magisterial speeches of men who led on the mobs of England and Ireland when Wesley started on his career. There was hard work among them to undermine the Wesleyan structure, but it was found that faith in God could counter-plot and baulk the enemies of Scriptural Christianity. They had Garibaldis to deal with. Circuits extended. Missions increased. Sabbath Schools were organized. Indians were evangelized. Christian Societies were multiplied, and houses of worship began to stud and bless the towns and townships. Rights and liberties, long denied the Methodists, were then as since, extorted from the legislature. They have kept on winning, by the Spirit of God, the Bible, and the Discipline, their spiritual battles, and never retreated; to day the Methodist professions here possess the largest Protestant Ministry in the Canadas; and annually, when the Wesleyan Ministers came with trophies and with joy to their Conference, "they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles."

In these days the Brethren go to Conference by railroad; every man in garb is a clergyman; and hundreds attend. In olden times the good men got to Conference as well as they could, some after sad mishaps, some on saddle-bags, some in sulkies, some in bateaus; diverse were the colours and cuts of coats, neckerchiefs, and hats: and when thirty or forty of them had met from every point of the wilderness, the first Conference hymn brought voice, and tears, and heart out, and there was jubilee among God's hardy, triumphant servants. How honoured are we in our ancestry! What *examples*, to shame modern fastidiousness!

Knowing this, I open the Conference MINUTES of 1830 with reverence and pleasure. Here is no child's play for the derision of bigots, but the sublime of holy pioneer men, and the matter-of-fact details of our Fathers—honest, unembellished. It was a memorable Conference, that lasted from the 17th to the 30th of August, and held at two places, Kingston and Belleville; and there must have been a thorough commotion that thirteen days on the old Methodist Bay of Quinte. After a sermon by the now sainted Healy, and an invitation by Mr. Jones, now our respected Co-Delegate, souls were