



said these were days when there must be no unstrain sound in all we do or say. Not a few thought they could be saved if they were baptized and had taken the Sacrament, hence we must arrange everything in our economy as that we do not give the least possible sanction to baptismal regeneration. Tell the people that no water, no Sacrament, no priest can save them, but the High Priest, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Teach this everywhere, let it be known through the length and breadth of our Israel that there is no such thing as Church salvation.

Rev. J. Herson said he would not administer in any form if he did not believe that God's blessing would be communicated with the ordinance, and for ought they knew children might be regenerated at their baptism in answer to the prayers of God's people. He urged that there was often a lack of faith both in connection with this and other ordinances.

The President gave an account of an impressive baptism service which he saw the late Rev. Dr. Bunting conduct.

Dr. Pickard recommended the passage John 3 ch. 5 v. to be inserted instead of "regenerate and born of the spirit."

On section II baptism of adults, two passages in Scripture were read.

Rev. J. G. Laird thought that too much time was being spent in mere quibbling about words.

Dr. Rice was afraid that we were bringing the baptismal formula down to suit modern tastes.

On the Lord's Supper, the marginal notes on the prayers of consecration are to be omitted. Instead of there shall be said as on p. 123. "They may be said," shall be inserted.

Section 4, which relates to marriage, excited some pleasant remarks. One said he did not like the word "obey," in the part assigned to the women, as very few women intended to really obey, and still they would obey when they had men who were worthy of being obeyed. He thought the word had better be left out, but the cry of "no, no," rendered it unnecessary to put the question to vote. One minister said he thought if we kept on omitting, some would be leaving out one or other of the "Ten Commandments." The prayers are recommended to be somewhat abbreviated. During this discussion, the President remarked that it was a matter of the highest importance to obey the discipline, or we may regard it as little better than a rope of sand.

The Order of the Burial of the Dead, is next to be introduced. Instead of the sentence, "I suffer as you do at our last hour," shall read, "Grant us that at our last hour," etc. Dr. Evans thought that great solemnity should always be observed when reading this impressive service.

Rev. W. J. Hunter read Report No. 3 from the Committee on the Revision of the verbal alterations were made, but the whole will soon be printed in extenso, so that we need not mention all the alterations here. It is understood that the President of the General Conference shall preside at all the meetings of the General Missionary Committee. There was a lengthy discussion respecting the constitution of the Central Board, and also the Committee on Consultation and Finance. Some were afraid of their being too much centralization, and could not see why the latter Committee was needed at all; but Mr. J. Macdonald explained how under the old regime it had been found extremely difficult sometimes to get a sufficient number of persons together to consult in matters of importance, and now as the work was extended over such a large tract of country, he could not see how we could otherwise do than that there must be brought together occasionally a few persons who took deep interest in the Mission work, and who could render valuable aid in time of an emergency that might arise.

Judge Wilnot and Dr. Rice made similar observations.

Mr. Lewis spoke for the first time we believe during Conference, but he was listened to with great attention. He was enthusiastic on the Mission cause, and hoped the time was not far distant when the income of the society would be a quarter of a million dollars, when we might have a Foreign Mission, not only in Japan, but in some other point, Mexico, Brazil, etc.

Dr. Jeffers spoke strongly against what is termed *ex officio* members. He was opposed and always had been opposed to *ex officio* members of any Committee. He thought they were an injury rather than a good, and wherever such obtained, they were calculated to excite distrust, as they usually brought an amount of influence to bear which was sure to accomplish their own ends.

Judge Wilnot replied to Dr. Jeffers. He did not think there was any such danger as the doctor seemed to apprehend. Officials must have influence or else they would be of little use, but he did not think they would use that influence to the injury of anybody.

The election of a Missionary Committee for each Annual Conference was also debated considerably. Rev. A. Hurlburt moved for such Committee to consist of the President and one minister from each district, besides an equal number of laymen. It thought that the best of men are liable to err, and that it was best to make arrangements as that there would be little danger of going astray. He thought that in all cases of Annual Conference Missionary Committees that the number he had proposed would be amply sufficient.

Dr. Stewart, and others from the East, advocated the plan of allowing each Annual Conference to appoint its own Missionary Committee in whatever way they might choose.

Dr. Douglas thought that the whole subject required to be gone about in such a way as that there should be mutual confidence, for the ground was so extensive that unless this is observed there would be great danger of the whole machinery getting out of course. It was well known that at times some brethren thought that their cases had not been considered as carefully as they ought to have been, but when the chairman of the brother explained that such were the pressing necessities of other parts of the work, that nothing more could be obtained for him, his fears were somewhat allayed. So in the case of men from all the Conferences, they would thus know something of the wants of each, hence it any Annual Conference should think that justice had not been done to it, then the representatives of that Conference would be able to explain. There must be faith in each other, or else we could not proceed. The decision at length was that the Annual Conference should elect their own Committee whatever way they thought proper, and the other recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

At 10:30 the Conference adjourned.

**TWELFTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.**

At 9 o'clock the President took the chair and gave out the 690th hymn. The Secretary read the xvii. Psalm, and Rev. G. Richardson led in prayer.

Dr. Rice read a memorial from the directors of the Ontario Female College asking

for permission to apply to the Ontario Legislature for an amendment of its charter to increase the number of clerical directors, and also to appoint the Principal by permission of this General Conference. He (Dr. Rice) moved that the prayer of the memorialists be granted, and that in accordance with the wishes of the directors, the Rev. J. J. Hare, B. A., shall be appointed Principal of the said Institution. Mr. Squelch seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Dr. Fowler moved a reconsideration of the resolution adopted last night respecting the appointment of the Missionary Committee of each Annual Conference, which was adopted. Dr. Fowler then moved that the said Committee shall consist of an equal number of ministers and laymen, the laymen to be elected by the district meetings.

Rev. J. Gandy moved an amendment that each Annual Conference shall be allowed to elect four of its members from such district, if they deem it necessary to do so, and spoke in defence of the amendment which he suggested on the ground that in some Conferences there were very few districts, and that therefore in such cases the Conferences shall be at liberty to appoint four members from each district. The motion as moved by Dr. Fowler prevailed.

The Missionary Committee suggested that the laymen of the General Conference shall nominate the lay representatives to the Central Board.

Prof. Burwash on behalf of the Educational Committee presented a further report. We expect to publish it in full in some future number. The following are a few of its recommendations:—

The Boards of the various Educational Institutes shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may occur between one General Conference and another.

Each Annual Conference shall appoint one of its members Treasurer on behalf of the Educational Society.

The financial district meetings shall appoint deputations for meetings to be held within the last bounds of their district in behalf of the Educational Society.

Afterwards slight amendments were made respecting the appointing of candidates to the Theological Institutions, also to the course of study and term of attending college.

There shall be central Boards of Examiners.

Any member of an Annual Conference may be appointed Professor in any of our seats of learning.

The Boards appointed last Annual Conference shall remain until next General Conference, except that of Montreal Theological Institute to which shall be added the name of Mr. James Ferris, junr.

The following are the members of the Wesleyan Institute, Manitoba: Revs Geo. Young, R. Fawcett, E. R. Young, H. F. Macdonald, E. B. Bowman, M. A. Hon. H. W. Kennedy, D. Rubin, J. Stewart, J. H. Ashdown, A. Burrows, W. Gowier, W. Nixon, and J. Polk.

The Committee on Itinerary and Ministerial Support made their report No. 1, which recommended that the time of a minister's stay on a circuit may be extended to four years on certain conditions. This report gave rise to an animated discussion, which continued the remainder of the session and a good part of the afternoon session. Not less than eighteen of the members of Conference spoke on the subject.

Dr. Rice was the first to speak. He condemned the action of the Committee, and expressed a hope that the Conference would put its foot down upon the recommendation which he conceived to be fraught with nothing but evil. Of course, if the recommendation should even prevail it could not act into operation until next year, as the Annual Conference would have to say whether they accepted or rejected the recommendation. He did not think there was any need of prolonging the discussion.

Dr. Fowler had given the subject some thought, but the more he had considered it the more strongly were his convictions opposed to it. He did not want to cast off everything which Mr. Wesley had given us, but he believed the itinerancy was a system which had so far worked remarkably well, and he thought that the itinerancy was another of the many proofs of Mr. Wesley's fair-seeing sagacity, even Mr. W. himself had said that he did not think himself capable of interesting a congregation longer than three years.

Dr. E. H. Dewart also called the giants of Methodism, such as Dr. Clarke, Benson, Bradburn and others, were all in favor of the Itinerary. The experience of other churches had not given them any thing of which they need avail unless it was to make them resolved still more than ever to the itinerancy. If the recommendation of the Committee prevailed then he was sure they would soon have two classes of men in the ministry. Some would be men of honor, and their poorer brethren would be despised. The former might then say—

A goodly seed I've got here,  
And good the harvest shall be  
When I five years remain.

Mr. J. Patton opposed the change, as it would work injuriously. Several attempts had been made during the last twenty years to make such a change as that now proposed, but all had failed, and he hoped the recommendation would be voted down.

Mr. W. Kennedy took the same view, and hoped this General Conference would speak so as to be heard all over the Dominion, that with this itinerancy should be held in fact as we have traced it from our fathers.

Mr. W. H. Gibbs acknowledged that he was the author of the report inasmuch as it was through his recommendation that the recommendation had been made. The Committee had no idea whatever of doing away with the itinerancy, and even though they had recommended that one year should be added to the term, yet they had done so with such guards as that they thought they would only have few applications for an extension of time.

Rev. E. H. Dewart did not think that the itinerancy would be endangered even though the term be extended to 5 years. It would be well to look at the matter squarely for this was a subject which would ever and anon be demanding their attention.

Rev. W. S. Griffin called attention to the inconveniences and losses and suffering which the itinerancy entailed upon all those who engaged on it. He knew instances in which he believed lives had been endangered, by reason of the inexorable rule of 3 years, which like cast iron would not be bent. Then too the churches might suffer a minister might be engaged building Churches, getting Parsonages, and he is called away before the work is completed, then see what confusion follows, perhaps loss occurs to the Church.

Mr. G. Webb approved the recommendation as did Judge Wilnot, who said that he became more and more attracted to Methodism. They had men in their ranks fitted for all situations. Some could help in the quarry others were workmen of great skill, all were useful. Not one of them could be depended upon. Of course all would admit that every minister did not suit alike. It is no reflection to say that the people are often glad when their three years

of some men expire, and very likely some of the clergy are glad too. He wanted the itinerancy remain as it is. He did not expect to form anything better, and he would not part with it until he knew what was coming in its place. There had been men of eminence and such as James Hamilton, Chalmers, etc. who had held their respective congregations for many years, and the people were glad when they filled the pulpits because they knew they would be well fitted.

Rev. J. Gray moved an amendment to the report so that the rule on p. 17 relating to the Stationing Committee should read that no minister should be stationed longer than three years at any place, except the Editors, Book-Stewards, Professors, and Governors.

Mr. R. Wilkes seconded the motion in a few well chosen remarks. He had great sympathy with the ministers, whom he knew had to make great sacrifices in order that the itinerancy might be maintained. Still he believed that it was better for the church that the system should be maintained as our fathers held it. He had paid considerable attention to other systems of polity and he thought that the system of the Presbyterian minister's connection with a particular church was only 2 years and 7 months, though some ministers did remain 30 years, so that it could easily be seen how short a term some of them must remain. There were at this time no less than 99 churches in the West, and there was certainly something worthy of being pondered.

Mr. J. Macdonald thanked God for the itinerancy. He did not like so many changes, he was led to ask whether are we drifting? He thanked God that ever Wesley was raised up and for nothing else he had given the church the itinerancy. There was not, he was sure, 69 pulpits vacant in Methodism. They had not to exhibit their man to see whether the people would accept of the Methodist system, but they had adapted it all the world over. It proved itself adequate to any emergency that might arise. He claimed to know their ministry well, and he was bold to say that there were many men in comparative obscurity who were making their chief, but these men being retiring, and not having friends in the Stationing Committee, are kept back. They are like "full many a gem is born to blush unseen." He had met with people of other churches who had said, "O, that we had our itinerancy!"

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

After the usual devotional exercise and the reading the minutes the order of the day was resumed.

Rev. G. Webb re-opened the debate. He defended the position of the committee and argued strongly in favor of the report. He was sure that those who were on the same side as he had been greatly misunderstood. He disclaimed any idea of demolishing the book, but he thought it was not fair to make it as had been represented like the Medes and Persians. Surely there was some flexibility about it. True, it was antiquated, though he did not quarrel with it on that account; but he was reminded of Angelo's death a beautiful work of art, and when his friends dressed it up as though it had just been discovered as a relic of 400 years ago, the doctor examined it and declared its inferiority, but when he found out that Angelo was the maker they said it was good, etc. The fact was, nothing would do for the doctor but antiquity, and so nothing will do for some of our Methodists but antiquity. No matter how wise a man Wesley was, and they will not detract, still he thought that they should not be compelled to adopt the cast iron rule in all things, unless there is some other reason than that he has stated. Why, it took some men a year to get acquainted with their people, and usually the last year of such ministers was won to be the best, and he urged that the 4th or 5th or 6th would be the best of all.

Dr. Dalglish spoke against the recommendation, so did Rev. H. Tindal, and said that he and those who belonged to the late Methodist New Connexion Church did not wish the idea to prevail that the four year's rule would be any complaint to them. Their Conference did try for an extension of time, but there was no dissent or objection respecting its utility. He hoped the Conference would decide their question without in any way being influenced as to how the question would affect them.

Mr. T. Bowles approved the recommendation on the ground that it would engender strife in the official meetings, and would tend to destroy the connexional spirit.

Rev. A. Sutherland delivered a vigorous speech which we are obliged to pass over. Judge Deacon, Rev. W. Williams, Dr. Allison, Rev. Hurlburt, and Mr. Mitchell also addressed the Conference, but our space is so full that we are compelled to reluctantly curtail.

The amendment and the resolution were then put to the Conference, when the former prevailed, followed by great cheering.

Judge Jones then moved that no minister should remain longer than two years without an invitation, but the motion did not prevail.

Rev. G. Webb Smith, prior to his departure, expressed his gratification at the appointment of Dr. Rice as President of the next English Wesleyan Conference, and he believed that the appointment would be equally gratifying to his brethren at home. He said that there were large interests involved in the altered relations which now took place between the said body and the Methodist Church in this country. He recommended a Conference of a business nature between the two Book Stewards of these two bodies, to arrange all such business transactions as the future may require. He was very much pleased to see his lay brethren forming a part of this General Conference; he admired their strong conservatism in all that is good, and urged well for our future. He referred to an act which the Conference did last Saturday, that he thought would give his fathers and brethren in England—namely the change of the name from that of the Wesleyan Church to Methodist Church. Well, he hoped that God would bless us and our legislation, even that of last Saturday. He expressed the high pleasure he felt during his sojourn among us—our kindness and courtesy toward him, and he again prayed that God would bless our great country, until literally "Christ's dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the rivers unto the ends of the earth." We have a glorious future before us.

After the reading of the various addresses and reports, the Conference adjourned.

**EVENING SESSION.**

The Conference met at 7:30 o'clock. The early part of the evening was occupied with the reading of fraternal addresses to other Churches, all of which were adopted.

Rev. J. Borland read the address to the M. E. Church of Canada; Rev. G. E. Sanderson read that to the M. E. Church of the United States; and Rev. E. H. Dewart to the M. E. Church, South.

Rev. Dr. Sargent, of Baltimore, briefly addressed the Conference in acknowledgment

of the first of the larger Methodist bodies to adopt the principle of lay delegation. He gave some interesting statistics of the body. They had 3,379 ministers, 3,044 local preachers, 676,600 members, 260,000 coloured members before him, many of whom were members of the same churches. They had 61 charitable institutions of learning. They had also a vigorous publishing establishment and several newspapers.

Rev. Dr. Fowler read the address to the Governor-General, Rev. Alex. Sutherland read that to the New Connexion Conference in England, and Rev. W. S. Blackstock that to the Primitive Methodist Conference.

Dr. W. Ogden read the voluminous and able report of the Committee on Publications, which we expect to reproduce in full. It gave most favorable an exhibit of all the publishing interests of the church, and offered suggestions for its extension and thorough organization. Its discussion was made the first order of the day for this morning.

Rev. S. Rose moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who, as a general rule, have devoted a large portion of time to the preparation of a Methodist Tune Book.

Rev. J. A. Williams moved that it lie on the table.

Hon. Judge Wilnot sharply criticized the character of the book, as in his judgment, unsuited for general adoption.

Rev. J. A. Williams followed in a similar strain.

Rev. A. Sutherland defended the book against the charges made against it. The tunes it contained were not unfamiliar tunes, but the music of the book was not in all his life. Complete unanimity of sentiment as regards any tune book, was not to be expected.

Dr. Jeffers had no objections to a vote of thanks, but did not want the Conference to become responsible for any endorsement of the work.

Dr. Green explained that the Book-Steward and Book Committee had only carried out the directions of the late Canada Conference, which had accepted the offer of these gentlemen's services, and now it was only being given to give a vote of thanks.

Rev. E. H. Dewart said that Mr. Rose's motion did not involve any endorsement of the book itself, which must win its way, as every other book must, by its own merits.

Dr. Pickard asked for some information on the subject which the Book-Steward furnished.

Rev. E. H. Dewart said that he was an admirer of slightly different phraseology from Mr. Rose's motion, and guarding against any endorsement of the book.

Mr. W. Kennedy defended the book, which, he said, had very great merits.

Dr. Stewart said he had been delighted with the music of the book. He thought it was admirably adapted for congregational singing, and to exclude the quartette singing that was killing our church music. He thought the church owed a debt of gratitude to those gentlemen who compiled it.

Dr. J. Borland followed in a similar strain.

Mr. J. Macdonald paid a high tribute to the generosity of the compilers, whose untiring labors for four years had been a labor of love.

Dr. E. H. Dewart endorsed these sentiments, and Dr. Ryerson expressed himself as greatly delighted and edified by the music he had heard from the book, and thought the church under an obligation for the benevolent labors of the compilers.

Mr. Blackstock's amendment, which took the place of Mr. Rose's motion, passed unanimously.

A large number of visitors in the gallery were interested admirers of the debate.

**THIRTEENTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.**

At nine o'clock, the President announced the 510th hymn, the Secretary read the Scriptures, and Rev. J. Forman led in prayer. The Minutes of the preceding session were read and confirmed.

Dr. Dalglish's report of the Book and Publishing Committee, which was adopted. The first part related to the election of the Book Committee. Various amendments were made or suggested.

Dr. Green, seconded by Dr. Rice, moved that the Committee should consist of nineteen members, eleven of whom should be ministers, and eight laymen.

Rev. E. H. Dewart suggested that an important interests are to be transferred to this Committee, which can only be reviewed once in four years, therefore a large and influential committee should be appointed.

Dr. E. H. Dewart suggested that a committee is always more effective than a large one, and therefore he would go for that which would ensure efficiency.

Rev. J. C. Slater moved that the members of the several Annual Conferences now present shall meet and nominate its members to the Book Committee, which resolution was adopted.

Judge Jones was greatly in favor of the ministers and laymen being elected in equal numbers to the Book Committee, and argued strongly in favor of this arrangement, but Rev. B. Sanderson said that the number of ministers on the Committee from the West at least, was to be far less in number than the former Book Committee, an arrangement of which he very much disapproved; and Rev. A. Hurlburt reminded the Conference that in times past when the Book Room was in strict operation, the laymen could not be held responsible for any of the indebtedness, the whole had to be borne by the ministers. Nevertheless, Mr. W. Kennedy thought that as this General Conference had the supervision of the Book Room, the laymen would take a more lively interest in the affairs of the Book Room than they had ever yet done. The recommendation of the Committee respecting the constitution of the Book Committee was carried thus: President of the General Conference and Book Stewards and Editors, with the following number of ministers and laymen from the following Conferences: Toronto, 9; London, 9; Montreal, 7; Nova Scotia, 5; New Brunswick, 5; and Newfoundland, 2. Total, 41.

Dr. E. H. Dewart pleasantly remarked that after discussing for most of a day the Conference comes back and adopts the recommendation of the Committee, leading an observer to remark there is nothing infallible outside of Rome, except Conference committees.

The number of connexional periodicals was the next subject of order for discussion. The Committee recommended that the *Christian Guardian* should be continued at Toronto, and the *PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN* at Halifax. The *Evangelical Witness* to be continued in its present form but at the end of present year it shall be incorporated with the *Guardian*. A lengthy discussion was continued on the name of the paper for the Western Conferences. Some proposed an entirely new name. *Provincial Methodist* was suggested, and seemed to have many adherents. Revs. Dr. Richardson, Dr. Green, E. H. Dewart, A. Sutherland, Dr. Jones, J. Brock, W. Williams, Mr. W. Beatty, and Mr. Squelch, all took part in this debate, which concluded by the resolution being adopted for the name to be the *Christian Guardian* and *Evangelical Witness*.

The subject of establishing a Book-Room

and a weekly journal in the city of Montreal was the next order of business. The question had been submitted to the Montreal district meeting, thence to the last Canadian Conference, and forwarded to this General Conference. The subject occupied a great deal of time, though not too much considering its importance. It came out in the discussion that certain friends in Montreal are very desirous to publish a weekly journal in that city, and also establishing a Book Room for the sale of Methodist periodicals, especially, and if the subject meets with hearty support from the Conference they will support it.

Rev. A. Sutherland wanted a subsidy guaranteed of \$1,000 if it should be needed.

Dr. Douglas hoped that such a sum would not be required.

Rev. S. Rose wanted to fix the sum at \$500.

Rev. A. Nicolson, though a stranger comparatively, thought he could see that it would diminish the circulation of the *Guardian*, and therefore that care should be exercised not while building up one interest another should be weakened.

Dr. Rice wanted the financial aspect of this question not to be lost sight of. He was in favor of all that could be done to circulate pure, wholesome literature among the people of the Province of Quebec; but still it would be well to endeavor to ascertain how far there was a likelihood of the paper being a paying concern.

Mr. J. Macdonald was astonished at the lines of argument pursued by some. It opposes progress. He was a friend of the *Guardian* and thought it was ably edited, but it was not extensively circulated among our people in the east, and he thought that they were worthy of having a paper of their own. The liberality of Montreal was well known, and if they should even require \$1,500 as a subsidy, it would be money well spent. He hoped that Manitoba would have a paper of its own, and the sooner the better.

Dr. Douglas would remind the Conference of the central position of Montreal, and the long distance between it and Toronto. He did not object to the *Guardian* except that he thought that it was not so much localized in its influence and notices of connexional affairs.

Rev. A. Sutherland claimed the right of reply. As had been stated the distance between Montreal and Toronto is great, consequently, before the *Guardian* can reach them below, news is no longer fresh, while their people cannot be induced to subscribe for it as they ought. He thought that churches should not be anxious about laying out wealth, but rather to do good and communicate. Of course he favored the idea of publishing a paper, and he hoped that no subsidy would be required, and he assured the Conference that any profits that might occur would come back to the Book Establishment in Toronto.

Rev. W. Griffin thought if the different Conferences were going to have their respective organs, the London Conference ought to have one also.

Rev. J. Graham from what he knew of the Province of Quebec, felt that a periodical would supply a long felt want.

Rev. E. H. Dewart in defence said that he had no local feeling to gratify, he published everything as far as he got it. It is the ministers in Montreal would send him news he would be most happy to insert it. It would be borne in mind that not one cent was granted for any correspondence or leading articles, all has to be done by the Editor. This is not the case with the papers in the States and many others. He thought that the amount wanted for Montreal would not exceed \$1,000.

The recommendation of the committee prevailed, namely that the Book Committee shall confer with the gentlemen in Montreal, relative to the publishing of a weekly paper and establishing a Book Depository, and in case it should be deemed prudent to make the attempt, the Book Steward shall give a subsidy of not more than \$1,000 if required.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

At 2:30 the 527th hymn was sung, and the Rev. G. N. A. F. T. Dixon led in prayer. Minutes of the preceding session were read and confirmed.

The Committee on Publishing Interests reported that they had recommended the publication of a monthly magazine, that subject was now taken up, and several members expressed their opinion respecting the project.

Rev. E. Hurlburt was of opinion that such a magazine required to be well sustained, and especially there should be an Editor of no ordinary ability. He was of opinion that such a person as that amongst us, but he had his doubts as to whether such a magazine could be made a paying concern at least for some years. Then, too, the Editor should be able to employ men of ability to prepare such articles or would keep up with the times.

As there is a monthly at present published by the Rev. A. Sutherland, called *Earnest Christianity*, it was thought that it would not be desirable that a Connexional Magazine should also be in circulation unless *Earnest Christianity* would be merged with it.

A resolution was therefore moved by Rev. Dr. Pickard to the effect that whereas it is believed that the publication of a Monthly magazine would tend greatly to the edification of our people, the Book Committee are directed at their first meeting after Conference to take the matter into their serious consideration, and if they deem it advisable, they shall commence publishing the magazine forthwith.

Rev. A. Sutherland explained the present condition of *Earnest Christianity*, after which the Rev. J. Potts said their could not now be the shadow of a doubt but that the time had come when a Connexional Magazine could be made a paying concern.

The recommendation of the committee respecting the publication of a German periodical was then taken up. Rev. C. S. Eby has for some time been engaged with such a publication, and now desires that the Conference should instruct the Book Committee to do so, providing the Missionary Committee will grant a subsidy and also subscribe for 200 copies of the periodical. Several questions were asked about the project which was ascertained that the paper is now doing a great deal of missionary work, it is appreciated and commended by many of those who are acquainted with it, it is the only periodical that circulates anything of Methodist literature.

There being a general desire for further information, Rev. C. S. Eby was loudly called upon. He took the floor and for a considerable time addressed the members of the General Conference in an earnest and eloquent manner respecting the subject in hand. He had some type worth about \$350, with a debt about \$200, he possessed of maintaining the paper are \$1,400 annually with an income of \$800. The Missionary Society made a grant of \$200 last year in view of missionary matters being printed in its columns. He did not consider that the Church was legislating for the present time, but for a time; and argued that a liberal policy should be pursued especially in regard to our German work. He insisted that what was done to assist Dr. Nat, when he began his labors in the United States. The M. E. Church gave him \$3,000 to help his publications and now there is in that country no less than seven German Conferences, with fifty Ministers and 50,000 members. Dr. Nat had written him some very encouraging letters, in which he thanked God that Mr.

Eby was publishing the journal for the Germans in Canada. In the United States they had subsidized Dr. Nat for 10 years, and now they pay the Editor a salary of \$1,000. Mr. Eby referred to the rapid increase of Germans in the Western part of this vast Dominion, and the efforts which were being made to poison the minds of the Germans against Methodism especially. Among them there are eight weekly papers regularly circulated, most of which were saturated with a wretched Nology. This he was desirous to counteract, and even in some so called religious papers he had found sentiments which propagated Baptist regeneration and other dogmas. Some of the United States German papers come into Canada and they contained sentiments of disloyalty to our beloved Queen. At present there are only five or six Ministers laboring under this Conference among the Germans; but they have not labored in vain. He referred specially to Preston. The paper which he now published found its way in considerable numbers into Germany and various parts of England. The Germans are a reading people and though their membership is small, there is a larger number in their proportion who take the paper, than there are among the English speaking people who take the *Guardian*. He earnestly hoped that the prayer which he had presented to the Committee for help would not be heard in vain, for unless he obtained help the publication must cease, and our people would become so much discouraged that he was afraid the consequences would be of the most serious nature.

There is a growing purpose to close Conference by the middle of next week. How many delicate and tenderly nurtured projects are still in the bosoms of these delegates, not yet having seen the light! By Monday or Tuesday, they will be presented by the score—and then we shall have a slaughter of innocents. More than one skillful ecclesiastical engineer will fall of obtaining the coveted immortality this time. There is so much to be done in reconstructing the old machinery, which has been so sadly disjunct by our recent dislocation into Annual Conferences, that time or space for new experiments are exceedingly limited. As reports from several important Committees begin to come in, it is seen that a vast amount of thinking and writing has been performed in the vestries and class rooms during a few days. Most fruitful of discussion of all our subjects, has been the Book of Discipline. This was quite natural. Here in the West, such a Book has been long in existence, and venerated by the majority as a treasury of wisdom. With us in the East, there has been, in common with the English Church, no order of discipline, save that expressed in the old standard of Grindrod. Much latitude there was for opinion and action, consequently, in matters of church polity not of vital importance. Our history for nineteen years is proof of the advantages of such freedom. Neldom have we been distracted by cases of mal-administration in regard to ecclesiastical government, and in no instance have we sat in judgement upon charges of heresy. But now we are to carry back a formula of administration whose every sentence will be interpreted as the law of our Church. In many respects it differs from our accustomed usages; but apparently there has not been the most uniform devotion to the letter of the Discipline hitherto in these regions; and license may consequently be taken from past conduct to follow occasionally in the future, other methods than those prescribed in the revised book. Men of rigid conscience there are in every community, to whom the framing of a discipline conveys the meaning of a positive law; to be of universal and undeviating obligation. With such there originates a strong and repeated inquiry as to the force and meaning of words; hence our protracted session.

The second Sabbath of Conference was spent by several delegates in visiting and preaching in distant localities. Our own choice lay in the direction of Strathville—the Circuit of our first Superintendent, and early companion in the ministry, Rev. J. Herbert Starr. The country districts remind us forcibly of P. E. Island. There is the same level expanse of rich, agricultural territory, and even in advance of P. E. Island, a continuous air of comfort and prosperity about houses, barns, and orchards. Of the latter there is considerable abundance and variety. Fruit is cheap and excellent; grapes, peaches, apples, may be obtained everywhere. The effect of such luxurious diet is noticeable at once in its effect upon visitors. Regaled daily with the luscious fruitage of a new soil, they wax fat. This may not be so conducive to the growth and development of the mentalities as other food. The *Daily Recorder* lays down the hypothesis that eastern men are brilliant as the result of their fish diet; and so our delegates, rich in phosphoric elements, excel all others as orators, debaters and legislators. How abundant must have been the supplies of the sea, for instance, in furnishing the table of Judge Wilnot! But, western philosophy apart, we would not be answerable for the continuance of that great keenness and energy which have characterized some of our eastern men, were they transferred to this land, and blessed with such increasing corporeality as results from the free hospitalities of Ontario.



