

MINUTES
OF
SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN

THE MINISTERS

OF THE

Wesleyan-Methodist Church in Canada,

AT THEIR

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE,

BEGUN IN BELLEVILLE,

ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th OF JUNE, AND CONCLUDED ON
SATURDAY, THE 20th OF JUNE, 1840.

TORONTO:

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY JOHN RYERSON,
CONFERENCE OFFICE, 9, WELLINGTON BUILDINGS.

1840.

J. H. LAWRENCE, PRINTER.

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MINUTES.

QUESTION I.

What Preachers are this year ADMITTED INTO FULL CONNEXION WITH THE CONFERENCE AND ORDAINED ?

ANSWER.

William Willoughby,	Sylvester Hurlburt,*
David Hardie,	William Scott,*
Stephen Miles,	Charles B. Goodrich.†
John Lever,	

* These had been previously ordained for special purposes.
† Ordination deferred for one year.

Ques. II. What Preachers REMAIN ON TRIAL ?

Ans. Wellington Jeffers, George R. Sanderson,
William Coleman, Henry Byers.
George Goodson,

These have travelled THREE years.

James Spencer, Charles W. M. Gilbert.

These have travelled two years.

Thomas Cosford, James Hughes.
Samuel C. Philp.

These have travelled ONE year.

Ques. III. What Preachers are NOW RECEIVED ON TRIAL ?

Ans. Lochlin Taylor,	James Price,
Daniel C. Van Norman,	William Dignam,
Joseph Reynolds,	John Wilkinson,
Francis Coleman,	William McCullugh,
Daniel Wright,	George Beynon,
James Mockeridge,	Matthew Conner.

Ques. IV. What Preachers have DIED since the last Conference ?

Ans. None.

Ques. V. Are there any OBJECTIONS to any of our Preachers ?

Ans. They were examined one by one.

Ques. VI. What Preachers have DESISTED FROM TRAVELING ?

Ans. Solomon Snyder ; at his own request.

Ques. VII. Who are the SUPERANNUATED PREACHERS ?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Charles Wood,* | William Brown,* |
| Franklin Metcalf, | Andrew Taylor,* |
| David Youmans, | James Wilson, |
| Daniel McMullen, | Thomas Whitehead, |
| Andrew Prindel, | James Booth,* |
| Wyatt Chamberlaine,* | George Ferguson. |

* These have no claims on the funds raised for the support of Superannuated Preachers.

Ques. VIII. What Preachers have WITHDRAWN FROM THE CHURCH this year ?

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Hannibal Mulkins, | Adam Townley. |
| Arkle S. Newbury, | |

Ques. IX. How are the Preachers STATIONED this year ?

Ans. As follows, viz. :—

I.—LONDON DISTRICT.

1. *Hamilton and Ancaster*,—John G. Manly, Hugh Montgomery, J. Wilkinson ; Andrew Prindel, superannuated.
2. *London*,—James Norris, William Coleman.
3. *St. Thomas*,—William Steer.
4. *Malahide*,—Thomas Fawcett.
5. *Gosfield and Howard*,—Cornelius Flummerfelt, Stephen Miles.

6. *Thames*,—John K. Williston.
7. *Oxford*,—Peter Kerr, Henry Byers.
8. *Simcoe*,—Robert Corson, Charles W. M. Gilbert.
9. *Brantford*,—Thomas Bevitt, James Mockeridge ;
Thomas Whitehead, superannuated.
10. *Dumfries*,—Edmund Stoney. One to be sent.
EPHRAIM EVANS, *Chairman*.

II.—TORONTO DISTRICT.

11. *City of Toronto*,—Egerton Ryerson, George R. Sanderson ; Joseph Stinson, who is President of the Conference ; John Ryerson, who is our General Book Steward ; Jonathan Scott, who is our Editor.
12. *Yonge Street*,—George Poole, John Law ; James Wilson, superannuated.
13. *Newmarket*,—Matthew Whiting ; Andrew Taylor, superannuated.
14. *Albion*,—John Baxter. One to be sent.
15. *Reesorville*,—David Wright ; David Youmans, superannuated.
16. *Whitby*,—Simon Huntington, James Spencer.
17. *Toronto Circuit*,—Ezra Adams, John Lever.
18. *Nelson*,—Rowley Heyland, Samuel C. Philp.
19. *Grimsbey*,—James Musgrove, F. Coleman.
20. *St. Catherine's*,—Samuel Belton, Samuel Rose.
21. *Stamford*,—Hamilton Biggar, Edmund Shepherd,
Thomas Cosford.

N. B.—Br. Shepherd is to take charge of and reside at Niagara.

22. *Brock*,—Horace Dean. One to be sent.

ANSON GREEN, *Chairman*.

III.—BAY OF QUINTE DISTRICT.

23. *Kingston*,—John C. Davidson.
24. *Waterloo*,—Ezra Healy, Wm. H. Williams ; Jas. Booth, superannuated.
25. *Napanee*,—Cyrus R. Allison, Gilbert Miller.

26. *Bath and Isle of Tanti*,—Conrad Vandusen, Jos. Reynolds.
27. *Hallowell*,—Lewis Warner. One to be sent.
28. *Belleville*,—Edwy Ryerson.
29. *Sidney*,—George F. Playter, Vincent B. Howard.
30. *Murray*,—John Black, Daniel Wright; D. McMullen, superannuated.
31. *Colborne*,—Joseph Messmore.
32. *Cobourg*,—James Brock; John Beatty, who is Domestic Governor of U. C. Academy; D. C. Van Norman, A. B., who is Professor of Mathematics in U. C. Academy.
33. *Port Hope*,—Wm. Haw. Brs. Brock and Haw are to change appointments at Cobourg and Port Hope once in three weeks.
34. *Peterborough*,—Wm. McFadden, Solomon Waldron. One to be sent. Moses Blackstock, supernumerary. Br. Waldron will reside at the Rice Lake Mission.

MATTHEW LANG, *Chairman*.

IV.—AUGUSTA DISTRICT.

35. *Prescott*,—Henry Wilkinson.
36. *Brockville*,—John Carroll.
37. *Elizabethtown and Gananoque*,—G. Beynon, Jas. Hughes; Wyatt Chamberlaine, superannuated.
38. *Augusta*,—Daniel Berney; Charles Wood, sup.
39. *Kemptville*,—William McCullugh.*
40. *Matilda*,—Benjamin Nánkeville. One to be sent.
41. *Rideau*,—William Young; Wm. Brown, superan.
42. *Perth*,—James Currie.
43. *Crosby*,—George Goodson. †

HENRY WILKINSON, *Chairman*.

V.—BYTOWN DISTRICT.

44. *Bytown*,—Richard Jones.
45. *Richmond*,—Asahel Hurlburt, Lochlin Taylor, who shall supply Bytown in the absence of the Chairman of the District.

46. *Osgoode*,—William Willoughby.
 47. *Ottawa*,—Thomas Harmon, Henry Shaler ; F. Metcalf, superannuated.
 48. *Hull*,—J. McIntyre.
 49. *Mississippi*,—Alva Adams, Wellington Jeffers.
 50. *Clarendon*,—John Armstrong.
 51. *Plantagenet*,—D. Dignam.
 52. *Bonchire*,—Stephen Brownell.
 53. *Pembroke*,—Matthew Conner.

RICHARD JONES, *Chairman*.

VI.—MISSIONARY DISTRICT.

54. *Aldersville*,—William Case.
 55. *Rice Lake*,—John Sunday.
 56. *Lake Simcoe*,—Sylvester Hurlburt.
 57. *Barrie, Penetanguishene, and Coldwater*,—Thos. McMullen.
 58. *Credit*,—Alexander McNab.
 59. *Grand River*,—William Ryerson ; George Ferguson, superannuated.
 60. *Muncey Town*,—Peter Jones.
 61. *Goderich*,—Charles B. Goodrich.
 62. *Warwick and Adelaide*,—David Hardie.
 63. *Guelph*,—Benjamin Slight.
 64. *Walpole*,—William Price.
 65. *Amherstburgh*,—William Scott.
 66. *St. Clair*,—John Douse.
 67. *Mono*,—One to be sent.
 68. *Sahgeeng*,—One to be sent.
 69. *Lake Superior*,—Thomas Hurlburt.

JOSEPH STINSON, *General Superintendent of Missions*, who resides at Toronto.

Ques. X. What is the NUMBER OF MEMBERS in our Societies ?

Ans. As follows, viz. :—

Circuits.	Members in Society.		
		St. Catherines	284
Bytown	126	Stamford	438
Osgoode	90	Whitby	557
Ottawa	562	Brock	203
Hull	123	Mono	115
Richmond	357	London	330
Mississippi	228	St. Thomas	371
Clarendon	92	Gosfield & Howard .	314
Pembroke & Bonchire	47	Oxford	221
Cumberland	68	Thames	200
Prescott	59	Brantford	366
Bröckville	51	Simcoe	292
Elizabethtown and		Dumfries	391
Gananogue	345	Hamilton & Ancaster	648
Augusta	538		
Matilda	477	MISSIONARY DISTRICT.	
Rideau	266	Alderville	93
Perth	145	St. Clair	166
Crosby	115	Rice Lake	56
Kingston	190	Credit	116
Bay of Quinte	721	Grand River	104
Waterloo and Isle of		Muncey Town	178
Tanti	400	Goderich	84
Hallowell	533	Warwick & Adelaide	86
Belleville	179	Sahgeeng	81
Cobourg	393	Lake Simcoe, Barrie,	
Peterborough	354	and Coldwater ...	362
Sidney	269	Guelph	150
Murray	438	Walpole	72
Colborne	142	Amherstburgh	54
Toronto	197	Marmora	49
Yonge Street	625		
Newmarket	490		16,354
Toronto Circuit	470	Last Year,	15,190
Nelson	545		
Grimsby	306	Increase,	1,164

Ques. XI. What has been COLLECTED for the relief and support of the Superannuated Preachers, and the widows and children of those who have died in the work?

Ans. Bytown	£5	14	6	Peterborough	..	1	5	4	
Osgoode	....	0	16	3	Sidney	.....	1	5	9½
Ottawa	.....	1	0	0	Murray	.....	2	8	6
Hull	.....	1	2	6	Colborne	....	0	15	6
Richmond	...	4	0	0	Toronto	....	8	10	0
Mississippi	...	0	5	0	Yonge Street	..	5	17	7
Clarendon	...	0	6	3	Newmarket	..	2	6	0
Pembroke and					Toronto Circuit		3	13	2½
Bonchire	...	1	0	0	Nelson	.....	2	16	6
Cumberland	..	0	14	3½	Grimsby	....	3	13	6
Prescott	.....	2	0	0	St. Catherines		4	7	6
Brockville	....	0	15	0	Stamford	....	4	17	6
Elizabethtown					Whitby	.....	4	5	0
& Gananoque		1	0	0	Brock	.....	0	10	0
Augusta	....	1	1	8½	Hamilton and				
Matilda	.....	6	7	9	Ancaster	...	12	7	1½
Rideau	.....	1	3	9	London	.....	2	1	6
Perth	.....	1	5	4	St. Thomas	..	3	3	9
Crosby	.....	0	10	0	Gosfield and				
Kingston	....	7	10	0	Howard	...	0	2	6
Bay of Quinte		2	1	7½	Oxford	.....	5	6	0
Waterloo	....	2	8	0	Thames	....	0	12	6
Hallowell	....	3	17	6	Brantford	....	2	10	0
Belleville	....	4	5	0	Simcoe	.....	2	12	0
Cobourg	.....	2	9	4½	Dumfries	....	3	2	6

PREACHERS' ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Joseph Stinson	..£1	0	0	Jonathan Scott	..	1	0	0	
Wm. Case	....	1	0	0	Chas. B. Goodrich		1	0	0
John Sunday	....	1	0	0	John K. Williston		1	0	0
James Evans	... 1	0	0	Sylvester Hurlburt		1	0	0	
Thomas Hurlburt		1	0	0	C. Flummerfelt	..	1	0	0
Benjamin Slight	. 1	0	0	Wm. Scott	....	1	0	0	
William Ryerson		1	0	0	John Douse	....	1	0	0
S. Waldron	....	1	0	0	Richard Jones	...	1	0	0

Wellington Jeffers	1	0	0	A. Green	.....	1	0	0
Henry Shaler	...	1	0	0	Dan. Wright	....	1	0
Wm. Willoughby	i	0	0	M. Richey	....	1	0	0
F. Metcalf	....	1	0	0	E. Shepherd	....	1	0
George Goodson	1	0	0	Jas. Spencer	....	1	0	0
Asahel Hurlburt	.	1	0	0	Rowley Heyland	.	1	0
Geo. F. Playter	.	1	0	0	Simon Huntington	1	0	0
Alva Adams	...	1	0	0	H. Biggar	....	1	0
Thomas Harmon	1	0	0	John Law	....	1	0	0
John Armstrong	.	1	0	0	James Musgrove	.	1	0
S. Brownell	....	1	0	0	Geo. R. Sanderson	1	0	0
Lochlin Taylor	..	1	0	0	Samuel Belton	..	1	0
H. Wilkinson	...	1	0	0	Samuel Rose	....	1	0
D. Berney	....	1	0	0	M. Whiting	....	1	0
James Currie	...	1	0	0	Jos. Messmore	..	1	0
V. B. Howard	..	1	0	0	David Wright	...	1	0
George Ferguson	1	0	0	John Lever	....	1	0	0
Benjn. Nankeville	1	0	0	David Youmans	.	1	0	0
Wm. McFadden	.	1	0	0	Horace Dean	...	1	0
John McIntyre	..	1	0	0	George Poole	...	1	0
William Young	..	1	0	0	John Ryerson	...	1	0
J. Carroll	.....	1	0	0	James Hutchinson	1	0	0
James Hughes	..	1	0	0	Sam. C. Philp	..	1	0
M. Lang	.....	1	0	0	John Neelands	..	1	0
C. Vandusen	....	1	0	0	John Tuke	....	1	0
W. H. Williams	1	0	0	J. C. Davidson	1	0	0	
Ezra Healey	....	1	0	0	Peter Kerr	....	1	0
John Black	....	1	0	0	Wm. Coleman	.	1	0
J. G. Manly	....	1	0	0	Andrew Prindel	.	1	0
Edwy Ryerson	..	1	0	0	H. Byers	....	1	0
James Brock	....	1	0	0	Jas. Norris	....	1	0
A. McNab	....	1	0	0	C. W. M. Gilbert	1	0	0
John Beatty	....	1	0	0	Thos. McMullen	1	0	0
G. Miller	.....	1	0	0	Stephen Miles	..	1	0
L. Warner	....	1	0	0	Thomas Fawcett	1	0	0
C. R. Allison	...	1	0	0	John Baxter	....	1	0
Thomas Cosford	.	1	0	0	Thomas Bevitt	..	1	0
D. McMullen	...	1	0	0	Thos. Whitehead	1	0	0
William Haw	...	1	0	0	Robert Corson	..	1	0

David Hardie . . .	1	0	0	Ephraim Evans . .	1	0	0
Edmund Stoney . .	1	0	0	William Steer . .	1	0	0
H. Montgomery . .	1	0	0				

Annual Subscription of Preachers	£99	5	0
Collection at Conference	4	7	2
Amount from the various Circuits	129	2	8
	£232	14	10

Ques. XII. How has this money been EXPENDED ?

Ans. DISBURSEMENTS.

To Rev. Franklin Metcalf,	£30	17	9
“ James Wilson,	30	17	9
“ Andrew Prindel,	30	17	9
“ Daniel McMullen,	30	17	9
“ David Youmans,	30	17	9
“ John Carroll,	30	17	9
“ Thomas Whitehead,	15	8	10
“ Widow Madden,	15	8	10
“ “ Slater,	15	8	10
To Stationery,	1	1	9
	£232	14	10

Ques. XIII. What has been collected to make up the DEFICIENCIES of poor Circuits ?

Ans. Bytown £5	1	0	½	Elizabethtown			
Osgoode	1	7	11	& Gananoque	2	13	10½
Ottawa	4	10	9	Augusta	3	18	6
Hull	1	16	3	Matilda	6	5	7
Richmond	3	16	8	Rideau	2	10	7½
Mississippi . . .	3	3	6	Perth	2	4	0
Clarendon . . .	0	17	11½	Crosby	1	19	0
Pembroke and				Kingston	11	7	6
Bonchire . . .	1	10	0	Bay of Quinte	3	7	3
Cumberland . .	1	19	6	Waterloo and			
Prescott	1	5	0	Isle of Tanti	6	15	11½
Brockville . . .	0	10	0	Hallowell	3	12	6

Belleville	1	7	1½	Brock	0	10	0
Cobourg	4	16	1	Hamilton and			
Peterborough ..	2	2	11	Ancaster ...	12	6	1½
Sidney	2	1	11	London	5	18	10½
Murray	5	3	10	St. Thomas ..	3	2	6
Colborne	1	6	3	Gosfield and			
Toronto	10	0	0	Howard ...	3	17	7½
Yonge Street ..	7	18	4	Oxford	4	0	6
Newmarket ..	2	0	0	Thames	2	1	3
Toronto Circuit	5	0	0	Brantford	3	17	11½
Nelson	6	17	1	Simcoe	3	14	7½
Grimsby	3	15	7½	Dumfries	3	8	10½
St. Catherines.	6	14	0	Missionary Dis.	12	10	0
Stamford	5	15	8	Book Room ..	25	0	0
Whitby	6	6	10				

Ques. XIV. How has this money been EXPENDED ?

Ans. IN CASES OF SPECIAL AFFLICTION.

Paid to Thomas Bevitt,	£4	0	0
“ James Milner,	5	0	0
“ George Goodson,	2	10	0
“ John Law,	5	10	0
“ William Steer,	3	7	6
“ L. Warner,	3	15	0
“ Thomas Fawcett,	5	0	0
“ E. Evans,	4	0	0

TO AID DEFICIENT CIRCUITS.

Mississippi Circuit	£14	0	0
Clarendon	7	10	0
Richmond	12	10	0
Perth	6	0	0
St. Catherines	7	10	0
Crosby	11	10	0
Murray	7	10	0
Cobourg	21	0	0
Colborne	4	1	10½
London	6	0	0
Thames	12	0	0

Simcoe	.....	.....	.....	.....	£7	0	0
Gosfield and Howard	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	0	0
Brantford	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	0	0
Dumfries	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	10	0
St. Thomas	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	0	0
Toronto Circuit	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	10	0
Nelson	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	10	0
Stamford	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	0	0

Ques. XV. What are the **STANDING COMMITTEES** FOR THE PRESENT YEAR?

Ans. 1. **THE BOOK COMMITTEE**,—consisting of the following Preachers, *viz.*: The President of the Conference, Preachers resident in the City of Toronto, Chairman of the Toronto District, Superintendents of the Yonge Street, Reesorville, Newmarket, Toronto, and Nelson Circuits, and of the Credit Mission.

2. **THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE**,—consisting of all the travelling Preachers residing in Toronto—and Messrs. Armstrong, J. Beatty, junr., Thos. Storm, A. Hamilton, and James Foster.

3. **THE CONTINGENT FUND COMMITTEE**,—to consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference, Chairmen of Districts, Superintendents of the Yonge Street and Reesorville Circuits, the Missionary at the Credit, and the following gentlemen, *viz.*; James R. Armstrong, Esq., Dr. John Beatty, Mr. James Foster, Mr. Thomas Storm, Peter Lawrence, Esq., Mr. Joseph Gardner, and Mr. Thomas Harris,—to meet in the City of Toronto, on the second Tuesday in June, 1841, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

4. **THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES**,—consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, Superintendent of Missions, Chairmen of Districts, Rev. Wm.

B.

Case, Preachers resident in the City of Toronto, and the following Gentlemen, viz. :—

J. R. Armstrong, M. P. P.,	}	<i>City of Toronto.</i>
John Beatty, Jr.,		
James Foster,		
J. Dunn,		
G. Walker,		
G. H. Detlor, M. P. P.,		<i>Brighton.</i>
G. Brouse, J. P.,		<i>Matilda.</i>
J. Counter, Esquire,	}	<i>Kingston.</i>
J. M. Rorison, "		
L. Houghton,		<i>Brockville.</i>
Wm. Brown, J. P.,		<i>Wolfsford.</i>
B. Flint, Jr., J. P.,		<i>Belleville.</i>
J. P. Roblin, J. P.,		<i>Ameliasburg.</i>
C. Biggar, J. P.,		<i>Murray.</i>
J. A. Keeler, J. P.,		<i>Colborne.</i>
J. W. Williams, J. P.,		<i>Oakville.</i>
Wm. Fitzmore,		<i>Whitby.</i>
James Gage,	}	<i>Hamilton.</i>
Edward Jackson,		
T. Bickle,		
Hugh Wilson, J. P.,		<i>Saltfleet.</i>
B. Corwin,		<i>Stamford.</i>
A. Davidson, P. M.,		<i>Niagara.</i>
A. Sharp,		<i>Brantford.</i>
G. Wrong, J. P.,		<i>Malahide.</i>
John Scatchard, Esq.,		<i>London.</i>
C. H. Johnson, J. P.,		<i>Longueil.</i>

The Editor of the Guardian to be Secretary, with authority to call meetings of the Committee, five of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

DELEGATION TO THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE IN ENGLAND, to be held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, July 29th, 1840,—the Rev. Messrs. Egerton and William Ryerson, accompanied by the President of the Conference.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved—That as an inclination has been expressed on the part of several preachers and members of seceding bodies of Methodists; and as it is desirable and our bounden duty to do all in our power to terminate all unchristian and unreasonable divisions, and restore and maintain in the Church the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace; the following regulations be adopted:

1. That in case any Travelling Preacher in the bodies referred to should make application to be received into our Church, the Chairman and any two Ministers (members of the Conference) of the District within the bounds of which such Preacher may be travelling, are authorised to act as a Committee on behalf of the Conference to admit him into our Church, and he may be employed in the mean time until the ensuing Conference; and if he be recommended by a District Meeting, he may be received as a preacher on trial or as a member of this Conference, and ordained, taking upon himself our ordination vows, unless he had been previously ordained in our Church.

2. That in case any Local Preacher of the bodies referred to should make application to be received into our Church, the Chairman of a District, in concurrence with the Quarterly or Local Preachers' Meeting of the Circuit on which such Local Preacher may reside, is authorised to receive him, after having inquired into his qualifications and all the circumstances of his case.

3. That should any private member or members of the bodies referred to make application to be received into our Church, the Preachers on the several Circuits are authorised to receive him or them as a member or members of our Church without the usual term of probation on trial, in the same manner as persons on trial are received into full membership in our Church.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

Question. What are the views of the Conference in reference to the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society?

Answer. We consider that the invaluable and increasing efforts of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in this Province, justly entitle that noble Institution to the continued and cordial support of the Christian Church; and we will individually be ready at all times to concur in any endeavours to promote its prosperity.

After the reading of a letter from the Rev. JAMES EVANS, addressed to the President and members of the Conference, dated May 12th, 1840, stating his convictions of duty and his wishes to devote himself to the christianization of the Indians in Hudson's Bay Territory, as the Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions, and requesting a certificate of his character and a recommendation to the Wesleyan Missionary Committee in London,—it was unanimously resolved:

That we learn with deep regret the desire of our beloved brother James Evans to relinquish his connexion with this Conference; but appreciating the moral destitution of the North-Western wilderness, and Mr. Evans' peculiar qualifications for that field of ministerial labour, and the apostolic feelings of personal sacrifice and benevolence which have prompted him to enter upon the cultivation of it, we affectionately grant his request. But in thus taking leave of our honoured brother, we deem it due to him, as it is gratifying to ourselves, to record our feelings of high respect and warm affection for him, and our deep sense of his piety, diligence, self-denial, and perseverance in the service of the Church, and his pre-eminent qualifications for the Missionary work; and our devout prayer to the God of all grace is, that our dearly beloved brother and his family may be protected, sustained, and prospered in their work of faith and labour of love, and that they

may be rendered an eternal blessing to the aboriginal Indian tribes to whose spiritual and immortal interests they have thus so nobly consecrated themselves, at the expense of the ordinary comforts of domestic life, and the most endearing associations of country, kindred, and home.

Resolved—That the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and the Rev. William Ryerson be our special Representatives to confer with the Government on all matters affecting the civil and religious interests of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada.

Resolved—That in order to prevent all disagreeable and unnecessary discussions in future on the general course of the *Christian Guardian*, the paper be confined to purely religious and literary subjects, and items of general intelligence; the Clergy Reserve question being considered a religious subject as a matter of course.

Resolved—That the Book Committee be authorised to devise and employ such means as they may judge expedient to collect the debts due the Book Room and Guardian Office.

Resolved—That the Book Steward be directed to act promptly upon the rule which renders agents responsible for the payment of subscriptions sent by them to the Guardian Office; and to allow no debts to accumulate beyond the responsibility of the agent; and that the printed terms of the Guardian be altered to meet this arrangement.

Ques. XVI. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?

Ans. In the CITY OF TORONTO, commencing on the second Wednesday in June, 1841, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JOSEPH STINSON, *President.*

EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary.*

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS

OF THE

CONFERENCE

TO THE

Members of the Wesleyan-Methodist Church in Canada.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—

“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The near approach of the close of our fifteenth Annual Conference reminds us of a pleasing duty,—that of addressing you in our collective capacity, as your religious and spiritual circumstances, and the state of our work generally, may require. We “watch for your souls, as they that must give account,” that “we may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” We “have no greater joy than to hear that” our “children walk in truth.” “For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.” The present session has been marked with great solicitude for your interests, unanimity in its decisions, and christian affection in its spirit. We wish that the fraternal and hallowed bonds which exist among you, and between you and us, which already are close, may be closer still; and rendered so by a plenitude of love from Him who is the God of love. Ours is a brotherhood providentially and specially existing for the preservation, defence, and promulgation of “the form of sound words,” and the diffusion of “scriptural holiness.”

The first and the pervading emotion of our souls is

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one of gratitude to the "Father of mercies" for the blessings he has vouchsafed during the past year. As a body of itinerant pastors we have peculiar perplexities, privations, labours, and exposures; but, as was the case at our last Conference, we can inform you that no diminution has taken place in our number. We bear testimony to the goodness of our Heavenly Father in thus far redeeming our "life from destruction." Our attempts, since we last addressed you, to "persuade" men to be "reconciled to God," with your pious and willing co-operation, have, through His condescension and blessing, been crowned with encouraging success; so that we have the heartfelt gratification to report an increase in our membership of 1,164 individuals. To a cheering extent we can appropriately make an application of the words of St. Paul:—"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." The bestowal of the sanction and smile of God on all the institutions of our Church during the past year, is a fact calling for a distinct grateful recognition.

We would put you in mind that every fresh gift from God has accompanying it an augmented responsibility, and louder calls to duty. Are our numbers greater than they were? There are just so many more souls to participate in our thoughts, our sympathies, our prayers, our "work and labour of love." "Babes in Christ" have a very limited knowledge of "spiritual things," and are therefore in circumstances of peril from "the world, the flesh, and the devil." Ministers, Leaders, and Members should be awake to this, and with wisdom, tenderness, love and constancy, foster those just "born from above;" and every disciple of the Redeemer should be solicitous of contributing his share of scriptural instruction, encouragement, friendly and pious visitation, and fervent supplication: and to those who have recently espoused Christ and our Church we affectionately and earnestly say, "Receive

the word of exhortation," "Rejoice evermore," "Pray without ceasing," "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Believing as we do that Methodism embodies Christianity, we say to our members generally, let her be the object of an increased and an increasing attachment. Respect and defend her *Ministrations*. "Need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." Believe and promulgate her *Doctrines*. Such as the doctrines of the fall of man, general redemption, repentance, justification by faith, the witness of the Spirit, communion with God, entire holiness, conditional perseverance in the divine life. These are at the foundation of the structure of gospel truth. Use assiduously the *Means* she recommends. "Search the Scriptures." Hear the word of God preached. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." "Pray without ceasing,"—publicly, socially, or in the family, as circumstances may permit or require. Enter into "your closet"—to examine yourselves, meditate, and make known your requests unto God. "Train up" your children in the way in which they should go. Mortify the flesh, and as often as possible, as enjoined by the Church of which you are members; keep a "fast" for the promotion of your own piety, and the piety of others. Highly appreciate and enjoy that *Experience* of divine things which she has always professed. By a daily unwavering confidence in the Cross of Christ, be able to say, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." The purity, stability, and joyousness of your souls will depend on your possession of this witness. It is of paramount importance, and we exhort you to know

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and realize your inestimable privilege. But let not this suffice. It is a plain and binding command of God, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." Here is all we mean by Christian Perfection; the love of God filling and ruling the heart. Be undaunted advocates of this doctrine, and exemplify its truth in your daily conversation, as persons who believe that "the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin." Faith brings these blessings into the heart: A sleepless determined vigilance, in conjunction with the same faith, keeps them there. Your adversaries are potent and persevering; therefore "put on the whole armour of God." Remember and pay the vows you made at the holy and delightful Centenary celebration. You will be convinced of the propriety of submitting to the *Discipline* of Methodism. "Obey them that have the rule over you," is obviously a precept for your observance; and it is a laconic, but very useful injunction of our Founder—"Do not mend our rules, but keep them." By a scrupulous, conscientious, and uninterrupted attention to these things, "your love" will "abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment," and you will at last "obtain everlasting life."

These, Dear Brethren, are advices which we deem to be of undeniable interest and importance, and imperative on us to give you. Other topics which deeply concern you may be briefly noticed.

We have great satisfaction in having it in our power to inform you that the Upper Canada Academy has this year participated more largely in the public patronage than in any previous year; which fact may be accepted as an evidence of its increased efficiency.

The Reports of Wesleyan Sabbath Schools furnished by the Chairmen of Districts have given us no small pleasure, inasmuch as they evince a growing and praiseworthy zeal in this department of evangelic labour.

Our Book and Printing Establishment is favoured with prosperity; and we commend it to your judgment.

and firm support. The variety, excellence, and utility of its publications should secure it. Bestow on the organ of our body, the *Christian Guardian*, your continued approbation. This establishment promises to be of incalculable advantage to the Connexion and the Colony in future years.

Sustain by your free contributions and prayers the various Funds of our Church. Uphold other institutions not connexional: the Bible, Tract, and Temperance Societies in operation among our population. Let the spirit of a holy philanthropy inspire you. Spurn the trammels of bigotry. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," is a Bible precept. Be Wesleyans. Our great Founder has said, the man of a truly catholic spirit is one who, "while he is united by the tenderest and closest ties to one particular congregation, his heart is enlarged toward all mankind,—those he knows and those he does not; he embraces with strong and cordial affection neighbours and strangers, friends and enemies. This is a catholic or universal love. And he that has this is of a catholic spirit. For love alone gives the title to this character: catholic love is a catholic spirit."

And now, Beloved Brethren, we terminate our delightful confederal interview, and repair to the scenes of toil and accountability assigned us for your edification. We come to you in the name of the gracious Head of the Church. "Receive us in the Lord." "Pray for us;" that "the word of the Lord may run, have free course, and be glorified." May "Christ dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Loud is the call on us to perform an act of unreserved dedication for the good of souls and the honour of God. Thousands in our province, and millions in the world, know not God, and are perishing. "Time

is short." Our Fathers, employed in the same work, are gone. Let there be a renewal of our pledges in the fear of God; and the future, illumined as it is by the heavenly inspirations of prophecy, prompt to that renewal *now*. Call for the spirit that has given the promise of the Spirit; call, and it shall come. Already effusions have taken place, and the day of unsurpassed and ceaseless outpourings is dawning. O Jesus, may thy kingdom come! "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Signed, by order and in behalf of the Conference,

JOSEPH STINSON, *President*.

EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary*.

Belleville, U. C., June 20th, 1840.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

REV. AND VERY DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN:

While we sincerely regret that we have not received your usual parental and welcome Address, we cannot omit renewing our assurances of respect and affection, and acquainting you with our interests and affairs. We desire to maintain with undiminished interest and uninterrupted regularity, the pleasure and profit of frank and confidential intercourse, in the true spirit of Christian and Methodistic unity and love.

We desire to feel truly grateful to Almighty God for the mercies and blessings of the past year. Notwithstanding the excitement and fluctuations of Society in

general, the Head of the Church has graciously preserved and blessed us, and given us an accession of One Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-four Members. The cultivation of the Mission field continues to advance and improve; and encouraging openings in different directions demand at once renewed exertions and the exercise of lively and cheering hope.

In connexion with the various branches of the Methodist Family throughout the world, we have joyously and profitably engaged in the celebration of the Centenary of Methodism. Contributions have been made to our funds, in memorial of the institution and first Centenary of Methodism, and as an humble and devout thank-offering to Almighty God, which we trust will materially contribute to the extension and prosperity of our Zion; and information has been diffused, and holy emotions awakened which cannot fail to result in the most cheering and permanent benefit.

We have great pleasure in again expressing our very high esteem and earnest affection for our respected President and Superintendent of Missions, the Rev. JOSEPH STINSON. We have the fullest confidence in his piety, integrity and abilities, after an acquaintance of several years; we cherish a deep sense of his indefatigable and useful exertions in the important situations in which he has been placed; and we earnestly request his appointment to the Presidency of our Conference for the ensuing year.

We are truly thankful for the increasing efficiency of the Upper Canada Academy. In the several departments of government, tuition, and general management, the Institution has experienced a decided improvement, and afforded us sincere satisfaction during the past year; and we confidently look forward to its still greater success in elevating and forming the intellectual and moral character of the Province. In parting with our excellent friend and brother, the Rev. MATTHEW RICHEY, A. M., who since the opening of

the Institution has held the office of Principal, we desire to express our high and affectionate estimate of his piety, learning, and abilities. We have been greatly delighted and edified by his pulpit ministrations and labours; and we devoutly pray, that, wherever his lot may be cast, he may largely partake of the Divine benediction, and be abundantly prospered in his work of faith and labour of love.

We deeply regret that we have not been favoured with a visit from your highly-esteemed Representative to the American General Conference, the Rev. R. NEWTON. We have felt greatly disappointed in his return to England, without attending our Conference and affording us the very peculiar profit and delight of his intercourse and counsels.

We also deeply regret that any misapprehensions have arisen, or any diversity of opinion obtained, to threaten the harmony and cordial coöperation of the British and Canadian Connexions. We most anxiously desire to strengthen and perpetuate the Union which now happily exists, and to adjust, satisfactorily, all points of difference between us; and, to accomplish these ends, we have appointed the Rev. EGERTON RYERSON and the Rev. WILLIAM RYERSON, Representatives to attend your approaching Session of Conference. We repose the fullest confidence in their character and abilities, and cherish a strong hope that all things may be settled on a sure and permanent foundation. We are also happy to add that our respected and beloved President kindly consents to accompany them for coöperation and aid, in compliance with our earnest and unanimous request.

And now, Dear Fathers and Brethren, we are about to repair to our respective fields of labour, determined to devote ourselves afresh to God; fervently praying that we all may be enabled to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and to coöperate with the utmost cordiality, diligence, and success in the great and glorious work which God hath given us to do: And

“to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

Signed by order and in behalf of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, assembled at Belleville, this twentieth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and forty.

EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary.*

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable CHARLES POULETT THOMSON, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, assembled in Conference, avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded us by our present annual meeting, to offer to your Excellency our most respectful and cordial congratulations on your assumption of the Government of the Canadas, and to express our grateful satisfaction in having witnessed the repeated assurances of Your Excellency's gracious intention to frame measures and administer the government for the equal benefit of all classes of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects.

In this expression of our feelings and sentiments, we are confident we give utterance to the feelings and sentiments of more than eight hundred congregations under our Pastoral care, including from seventy-five to one hundred thousand souls.

We gratefully acknowledge the benevolent exertions which Your Excellency has employed to promote an equitable and satisfactory settlement of the ecclesiastical affairs of this Province; and now that the Judges of England have decided in favour of the lawful and equitable claims of other Protestant denominations than the Church of England to participate in the advantages of the Clergy Reserve provision for the support of the Protestant Religion, we hope the objects of

Your Excellency's unwearied efforts will be speedily realized, and that this long agitated question will be finally set at rest.

We are thankful that, at a juncture so critical and eventful in the history of these Provinces, the administration of their affairs has been entrusted to a statesman of Your Excellency's acknowledged abilities and great experience, and liberal principles; whilst, on the other hand, it must be gratifying to Your Excellency to know, that the comprehensive powers with which Your Excellency has been invested by our beloved Sovereign, have been, and will be, exercised in behalf of a people the great body of whom are anxious, with Your Excellency, to strengthen and perpetuate the connexion between the Parent State and these important Colonies.

Taught by precept and example, from infancy, to "Fear God and honour the King," it will continue to be, as it has heretofore been, our aim and employment to inculcate these essential duties upon the Congregations committed to our care—whose universal determination and zeal in rallying to the maintenance and defence of the constituted authorities during the late unhappy insurrection, and the disturbances which ensued, has furnished the strongest possible proof that they yield to no class of Her Majesty's subjects in sentiments and feelings of loyalty to Her Majesty's Person and Government.

Our earnest prayer to Almighty God is, and will continue to be, that Your Excellency may be protected and guided, and prospered in all your deliberations, "that all things may be so ordered and settled by your endeavours upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations."

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, assembled in Conference, this twentieth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and forty.

JOSEPH STINSON, *President*,
EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary*.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received with great satisfaction your Address; and I am sincerely thankful for the kindly sentiments expressed to me personally by the Body in whose name you offer it.

During my administration of the affairs of Upper Canada, it was my anxious desire to make myself acquainted with the opinions, with the conduct, and with the affairs of that portion of the people of the Province of whom you are the Spiritual Leaders; and I have been most happy in being able to bear my testimony to their loyalty and good conduct, not less than to your zeal, energy, and self-devotion in the pursuit of your conscientious labours. This testimony will, I feel no doubt, render vain the attempt which I regret to find is made by some of your own Society, to represent you and those committed to your charge as disloyal to your Sovereign and averse to British Institutions; and I am confirmed in this belief by the Address which I now acknowledge being concurred in, and presented by the Official Representative in the Canadas of the British Wesleyan Body, whose testimony is thus unequivocally added to mine.

It is not my province to enter into any questions which may concern the management of the internal affairs of your Body. Still it was with regret that I learned, when in the Upper Province, from the Representatives of the London Society, that differences of opinion prevailed amongst you—and I shall be glad to find that they have been satisfactorily arranged. My course, however, is clear. Whilst I administer the affairs of the Canadas, it is my duty to look to the wishes and to the feelings of the people of that country; and you will find me ever ready and willing, whenever any question connected with the Executive Government may arise, to support the reasonable views and maintain the just rights of your Society, as expressed through your recognized authorities within these Provinces.