

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Primitibe Methodist Church

IN CANADA.

HELD AT TORONTO,

June 7th and following days.

WITH THE

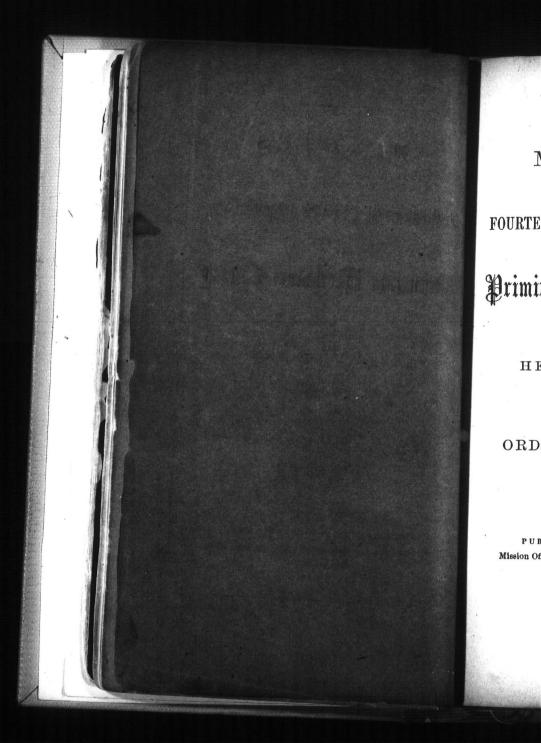
ORDINATION CHARGE,

BY REV. J. DAVISON.

Moronto:

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM ROWE,
Mission Office, Christian Journal Office, and Book Room,
KING STREET EAST.

1867.



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MINUTES

OF

The Thirteenth Annual Conference.

According to appointment, the Conference assembled at Toronto, on the morning of Friday, 7th June, 1867, and, atter devotional exercises, proceeded to business.

ROBERT CADE, PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH MARKHAM, SECRETARY.

MINISTERS ORDAINED AND RECEIVED INTO FULL CONNEXION.

-William Cooper, David Simpson, Edward Whitworth,
Rounding Pattison, James Walker, Charles Stafford.

Preachers on Trial.—Luke Hall, James H. Stonehouse, Thomas Auger, Thomas Griffith, William Thornley, John Frankish, who have travelled three years; Wm. Clowes Jolley, James Parker Bell, James Allen, Thomas Amey, John Wesley Gilpin, James Campbell, who have travelled two years; and Jesse Burdge, J. Wesley Walker, Matthew Evans, who have travelled one year.

PREACHERS RECEIVED ON TRIAL.—Eli Middleton, Thomas W. Jolliffe, Elite Tredgold, William Beilby.

STATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1867-8.

Foronto District :

Thomas Crompton, Theological Tutor and Editor. William Rowe, General Secretary and Book Steward.

TORONTO—James Edgar, John Goodman. One to be obtained. John Davison, Sup.

Students—Job Roadhouse, Rounding Pattison, Luke Hall, and G. Lewis.

Yorkville Branch—W. Herridge, W. S. Hughan.
Lyle, Superannuated.

Markham—Joseph Markham, Thomas Auger.
Pickering Branch—John W. Gilpin.
Bowmanville—William Lomas, Matthew Evans.
Scarboro'—John Nattrass, Eli Middleton.
Reach—James Smith, William Thornley.
Muskoka—James Allen.
Bruce Mines—John Frankish.

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aring two

Brampton District :

BRAMPTON—Robert Boyle, James Campbell. ETOBICOKE—James S. Boyes, John W. Walker. William Jolley. Sup.

Albion—William Bee, Thomas Amy. One to be obtained.

Laskay—John Garner, James Stonehouse.

Orangeville—Henry S. Matthews, Thomas W. Joliffe.

Joseph Simpson, Sup.

OSPREY & ARTEMESIA—Two to be obtained.

Thomas Foster and Robert Stephenson, Sup.

COLLINGWOOD—James Walker.
BRADFORD—Matthew Henry Matthews, William Beilby.
BARRIE—Thomas Griffith.

Mamilton District :

HAMILTON—Jonathan Milner. HAMILTON WEST—William E. Cooper.

GRAND RIVER—William Pyke.
WALPOLE—William Newton.
BLENHEIM—Thomas Dudley.
BRANTFORD—Samuel P. Lacey.
PARIS—George Haigh.
WALSINGHAM—Matthew H. Moody.
WOODSTOCK—William Codville.

GUELH PEEL-HAWK MINTO

BRANT KINCA JUBILA

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Toronto

Guelph District :

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Beilby.

-William

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GUELPH—George Wood. Thomas Adams, Sup.
PEEL—Charles Roffe. One to be obtained.
HAWKSVILLE—Walter Reid. J. Towler, I. Ryder, Sup.
MINTO—Jesse Burdge.
BRANT—John D. Gilbert.
KINCARDINE—William Huggins.

London District :

JUBILEE - William Monkman ; Amos Knapp

LONDOM—Robert Cade.

BOSANQUET—Richard Paul; Elite Treadgold.

MACGILLIVRAY—James Cheetham; James P. Bell.

STRATFORD—Abraham Heyworth.

PLYMPTON—Richard Auger.

CHATHAM—Edward Whitworth; Charles Stafford. One to be obtained.

CARADOC—George Watson.

Kingston District:

Kingston—John R. Swift.

Portland—William Cook. One to be obtained. John
Lacey, Sup.

Napanee—George F. Lee.

Collinsby—Richard Hazzard.

HIXCHINBROOKE—Timothy Gavin. To be under the oversight of the Portland Superintendent.

Bros. Timothy Nattrass and D. Scott returning to England.

ROBERT CADE, PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH MARKHAM, SECRETARY.

three more

Toronto, 11th June, 1867.

MITCHELL—David Simpson.
Kirkton—William Clowes Jolley.

A TABULAR VIEW OF THE PRIM

		META	TITITI						Hr.	or.	the	Wea			Endi
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Q. What is the numerical state of the Church?

A.	Number	of Ministers	70
	66	Local Preachers	78
	"	Class Loaden	
	4.6	Class Leaders	329
		Connexional Churches	177- 15 Increase.
		Other Preaching Places	162
		Sabbath Schools	108- 8 Increase,
	**	Sab School Tosel	5952 400 Therease.
	4.	Sab. School Teachers.	1005—462 Increase.
		Members in Society	898— 93 Increase.
		Members in Society	6178—297 Increase.
		Members who have died	during the year, 50

The Conference records its profound gratitude to Almighty God for the encouraging success we have had, temporally and spiritually, during the past year; and for the general concord, harmony, and cooperation we have enjoyed; and by the grace of God we hope to unite in stronger bonds and with higher enthusiasm, striving to promote the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth.

Q, When and where shall the next Conference be held?

A. At Hamilton, on Friday, 5th June, 1868; to commence at nine o'clock, a.m.

Q. What Connexional Officers shall attend the next Conference ?

A. Robt. Cade, as General Committee Delegate; Thomas Crompton, as Theological Tutor and Editor; Wm. Rowe, as Missionary Secretary; Robert Walker, as General Treasurer; James Edgar, as Friendly Society's Representative.

Q. When and where shall the District Meetings be held for 1868, and who shall attend as Gen. Committee Delegates?

	0
When.	G.C.Delegate
07 1 35	
Wed., May 20, 1868,	J. Nattrass.
Wed., May 20, 1868,	J. Garner.
Wed., May 20, 1868,	T. Dudley.
Wed., May 20, 1868,	G. Wood.
Wed., May 20, 1868,	R. Paul.
red., may 20, 1868,	J. R. Swift.
	When. Wed., May 20, 1868, Wed., May 20, 1868, Wed., May 20, 1868, Wed., May 20, 1868, Ved., May 20, 1868, Ved., May 20, 1868,

Q. Who compose the various Connexional Committees?

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This

A. 1. The General Committee.

William Rowe. Thomas Crompton. James Edgar. William Lomas. John Nattrass. Robert Boyle. William Bee. John Garner. Jonathan Milner. Thomas Dudley. George Wood. James Cheetham. Richard Paul. William Monkman. John R. Swift. William Cook.

Robert Walker. John Bugg. R. I. Walker. H. Jennings. M. Joness. J. Lee. W. Marshall. F. Sleightholme. I. Wilson. J. Cook. J. Green. J. Lawson. A. Thurlow. J. Passmore. J. Ryan. W. Sturtridge. C. D. Maginn. G. Raper. J. Wood. W. Trebilcock. L. Purdy. W. P. Lacey.

Thos. Thompson.

N.B. This Committee will hold its meetings at the same time and place as the General Missionary Committee.

2. The General Missionary Committee.

This Committee shall be composed of the same persons as the General Committee, and Wm. Rowe shall be its Sccretary. The General Quarterly Meetings of this Committee will be held Thursday, 19th September; Thursday, 12th December; Thursday, 19th February; and Thursday, 18th May. Members to inform the Secretary a week previous to the meetings of their intention to attend, that provision may be made for them among the friends in Toronto.

3. Executive Committee.

W. Rowe, T. Crompton, J. Davison, J. Nattrass, R. Boyle, R. Walker, J. Bugg, R. I. Walker, C. D. Maginn, W. Marshall, J. Lawson, T. Thompson.

4. Book Committee.

This Committee shall be composed of the Executive Com-

5 Increase. 8 Increase. 2 Increase. 3 Increase.

7 Increase. ne year, 50

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Thomas a. Rowe, al Treatative.

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mittee, and shall meet when deemed necessary by the Execu-

District Committees.

Toronto-J. Edgar, J. Nattrass, W. Herridge, R. Walker, J. Bugg.

Hamilton—J. Milner, W. Newton, J. Carter. London—R. Cade, J. Cheetham, W. Trebilcock. Brampton—R. Boyle, W. Bee, W. Marshall. Guelph—G. Wood, W. Reid, J. Ryan.

Kingston-J. R. Swift, R. Hassard, J. Baker.

N.B. The first named person in each District is Secretary.

Boards of Examiners.

Toronto-J. Edgar, J. Nattrass, J. Markham, J. Smith, W.

Brampton-J. S. Boyes, H. S. Matthews, M. H. Matthews, J. Garner, R. Boyle.

Hamilton-W. Newton, J. Milner.

London-R. Paul, J. Cheetham, R. Cade. Guelph—W. Reid, W. Monkman, G. Wood. Kingston-W. Cook, J. R. Swift, W. P. Lacey.

N.B. The last named person the Convener.

Q. Who is General Treasurer.

A. R. Walker, Esqr.. shall be the General Miss. Treasurer.

Theological Institute.

Q. What shall be done with respect to a Theological Institute, for the instruction of young men in the Ministry?

A. An Institute for such a purpose shall be established, and be designated "THE CANADIAN PRIMITIVE METHODIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE," and that it be situated in Toronto.

A Teological Tutor be appointed to the Institute, who shall deliver Lectures to the Students; examine them upon the same; instruct them in pastoral and other duties; and have oversight of their literary studies.

The Rev. Thos. Crompton be Editor of "The Christian Journal" and Theological Tutor.

The term of office of Tutor shall be the same as that of Book Steward and Seretary, viz. five years; subject to reelection annually.

A collecting book shall be provided for each Minister on every Station, in order to take up subscriptions on behalf of and frie for the

the said

A Lib hoved t obtain l Relief F Library

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to rester on half of the said Institute; and it is earnestly hoped that Ministers and friends will co-operate to raise at least the sum of \$600 for the year, exclusive of what is guaranteed in Toronto.

A Library shall be established for the Institute; and it is hoped that Ministers and laymen will use their influence to obtain books, with which to furnish it. That \$100 from the Relief Fund be expended in forming the nucleus of the said Library.

COMMITTEE:—The President and Secretary of Conference, T. Crompton, W. Rowe, R. Boyle, J. Edgar, R. Walker, T. Thompson, G. Cox, W. Marshall, J. Lawson, and R. I. Walker be a Committee of Management for the Institute; and that they report to the next General Committee Meeting.

The young men set apart by Conference as Students shall attend the Connexional Institute.

All our Ministers shall have the privilege of attending the Theological Lectures, when they have opportunity.

8. General Legislation.

Q. What shall be done respecting Ministers' salaries?

A. The salary of married City Ministers shall be \$500 per annum, and the salary of Town and Country married Ministers \$450 per annum. The members of our church shall be kindly requested to increase their subscription twenty-five per cent., if possible.

Q. What shall be done in reference to Quarterly Meetings?

A. The Quarters of the next Connexional year shall be altered, in order to bring the last Quarterly Meeting nearer the time of Conference, viz. the first two quarters be twelve weeks each, and the latter two quarters eleven weeks each.

Q. What shall be done respecting having the counsel of Superannuated Ministers in Conference ?

A. The Superannuated Ministers, of twenty years' standing, be allowed a seat and voice in future Conferences.

Q. What shall be done to extend Conferential Representation.

A. The Representation to Conference from the various Districts be as follows, viz. Toronto District, 5 ministers and 10 laymen; Brampton District, 5 ministers and 10 laymen; London District, 4 ministers and 8 laymen; Hamilton and Guelph Districts, 3 ministers and 6 laymen each; and Kingston District 2 ministers and 4 laymen.

Q. What shall be done to encourage emulation among Missionary Collectors ?

A. Our Juvenile Missionary Collectors shall be divided into three grades-1st. City Collectors; 2nd. Town do.; and, 3rd. Country do., in our Sabbath Schools; and the same rule shall apply to personal collectors. The Conference authorises Superintendents of Stations to reward Juvenile Missionary Collectors with books, &c., in proportion to the

Q. What shall be done respecting claims on the Relief Fund?

A. Allowance shall be granted for all the time of a Minister's illness-not deducting two weeks, as before.

Book Room, &c.

Q. What shall be further done in reference to the Book Room and Mission Office ?

A. That the matter of purchasing property for Book Room and Mission Office, and of their being on the ground-floor, be placed in the hands of the General Committee.

Parsonages.

Q. What shall be done to encourage the building of Parsonages on Mission Stations?

A. That a sum from \$50 to \$150 be granted to Mission Stations, as each case may require, for the purpose of building Parsonages, upon condition that the required balance of cost be raised by the authorities of the Stations so assisted.

Reporting of Funds.

Q. What shall be further done in this respect?

A. That in future the net amount only of the Missionary money shall be reported in the Reports sent to District Meetings and to Conference. Also, all money received by any special efforts, such as tea meetings, &c., shall be reported annually to District Meetings and to Conference, as well as

Q. What shall be done respecting Class Leaders ?

A. They shall be subject to annual election; such election shall be with the classes, subject to confirmation by the May Quarterly Meetings.

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II.-Th Course of duly exar nual Dist arranged) report the

III.—T Books spe however, the recor service in

IV.-T shall be ence for t shall be s some time Young Men's Course of Study.

Q. What shall be the course of study for our young preachers on probation ?

A. I. That each Candidate for the Ministry recommended according to rule shall, before being engaged to enter upon the work, undergo an examination before the Board of Examiners of his District, upon the following subjects:—

1. On the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments, in the present authorized version.

2. On the Fundamental Doctrines contained in those Testaments, as stated in the Discipline of the Church, and as explained by Wesley, Cooke, Garner, and other Methodist writers.

3. On Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, Reading, and Writing. The Candidate to read a chapter of the Bible, and to write from dictation any passage that may be given him.

4. On his Call to the Ministry; on Pastoral Work; and on Sermonising: the Candidate to produce a written outline of a sermon, for the examination and satisfaction of the Board.

The Board to report the said Examination, with its recommendation or non-recommendation of the Candidate, to the ensuing District, General Committee, or Missionary Committee Meeting, as the case may be.

II.—That each Probationer shall pursue the following Course of Study, each year of his probation; and also be duly examined thereupon, on the day previous to the Annual District Meeting of his District (or as may be otherwise arranged), by the authorised Board of Examiners, who shall report thereupon to the District Meeting.

III.—That the said Examination shall be upon the Text Books specified in the subjoined Course of Study. It is hoped, however, that each Student will, if possible, secure and read the recommended works, as they will be found of great service in studying the Text Books.

IV.—That a Series of Questions on each year's studies shall be prepared, by the Committee appointed by Conference for the purpose; and that a printed copy of the same shall be sent by the District Conveners to the Probationers, some time previous to cach examination.

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V.—The Probationer shall also be examined each year on the Discipline of the Church; on Cases of Discipline; on the Management of Church Affairs, Revival Efforts, Pastoral Duties, and other matters of a kindred practical character.

VI.—Each Probationer shall produce yearly, for the examination of the Board, a written sermon, and, if needful, shall read the same, for the satisfaction of the Examiners,

VII.—That all under the head of "Boards of Examiners," on page 30 of the Book of Discipline, after parapraph First, is now null and void.

VIII.—That the above Regulations, with the Course of Study, shall be printed, and kept in stock at the Book Room, for the use of Examiners, Probationers, Candidates,

COURSE OF STUDY.

The text books are, Lennie's Grammar, 1st year. Dawson's Pulpit Power,* Petty's Connexional History, with his Tract on "The Polity of Primitive Methodist Church,"* Angus' Hand Book to the Bible,† Garner's Theology,* [Quackenbos' Composition, Todd's Manual, Clarke's Letters, Clowes' Life, and Bastow's Dictionary, are recommended for

2nd year. Schmitz' Manual of Ancient History, Whateley's Logic, Wayland's Moral Science, Wesley's Sermons, vol. I, Cooke's Theology.*—[Angus' Hand Book to English Tongue, † Paley's Evidences, † James' Earnest Ministry, and Wesley's Journals, with Crompton's Agency of the Church, are recommended.

3rd year. Birk's Bible and Modern Thought,† Kidder's Homiletics, Whately's Rhetoric, White's Eighteen Centuries of the Christian Church, Wesley's Sermons, vol. II., Watson's Institutes, vol. I. - Angus' Hand Book of English Literature, Pinnock's Catechism of Church History, Dun's Science and Christian Thought,; and Steven's Methodism are recommended to consult.

4th year. The Ulster Prize Essays, or Gold and the Gospel (Nisbit's edition), White's Universal History, Upham's Mental Science, Horne's Introduction, Watson's Institutes, vol. II.—[Paley's Horæ Paulinæ, Birk's Exodus, Hibbard of Mill on Baptism, Pearson on the Creed, and Locke on the Understanding, for reference.]

* P. M. Book Room Edition. + London Tract Society's Edition. Harper's N. Y. Edition. & Ward & Co., London.

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Miscellaneous Resolutions.

Confederation.—That as a Conference we highly approve of the Confederation of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; and that an Address be sent to the new Viceroy of the Confederation, congratulating him on the position of the country, and his own elevation.—Revs. T. Crompton, J. Davison, and W. Rowe to prepare the Address.

Mission Circuits.—That Stations, on becoming Mission Circuits, without their consultation have the removal expenses of their Ministers to them for the first year paid out

of the Mission Fund.

PROBATION.—That when a young man has travelled ten months, and all is satisfactory relative to him in the Ministry, such period of time shall be reckoned the first year of his probation.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—That the first Wednesday in October next be observed as a Thanksgiving Day by our Church.

THANKS.—The Conference tenders its hearty thanks to the Giver of all Good for the encouraging success we have had, temporally and spiritually, during the past year.

The thanks of Conference were cordially given to all the Connexional Officers, for the efficient manner in which they

had discharged their various duties.

ADDRESSES.—Congratulatory Addresses were sent from Conference to the Prebyterian Synod, assembled in Toronto; the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, in Hamilton; the New Connexion Methodist Conference, in Aurora; and the Bible Christian Conference, in Cobourg: and from the Synod and and all the Conferences cordial responses were received.

Relief Fund -1867

Dr.	*	cts.		8	cts
To balance—1866	109	63	By cash for sickness		00
" Toronto Dist1867	63	10	" Conference expenses		50
" Brampton " "	70	75			00
" Hamilton " "	25	15	" Theological Insti-	-	• •
"Guelph " "	33	75	tute Library1	00	00
"London " "	41	61	" Balance 2	51	84
"Kingston " "	22	35		•	
" Homestead Loan	50	00			
			_		-
	416	34	€4	16	34

DR. \$ c	By cash for printing certificates, postages, &c
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\$3652 20 Note.—It will be seen above, that because of the Book \$3652 20 debts of 1867 being larger than those of 1866, the Book Room profits for the year are \$249 78; but that is minus freightage for the year, which account could not be obtained in time

Children's Fund. to June 1887

DR. To Balance last year. 1	\$ cts. 09 81	Cr.	\$ cts.
Rev. J. Goodman's sub.	37-25 5 00 20 94	By Cash to Circ and Missions.	uits 1973 00
\$197	73 00		\$1973 00

Grants to Missions for 1867.

Note.—There having been a serious mistake in the data upon which the granting committee based its action, the Executive were necessitated to revise the grants. The Executive submits, for the information of all concerned, that

\$6,462 00 includes year, sho Bradford Brantford Blenheim Brant .. Bruce Mi Barrie . Collingw Chatham Caradoc Collinsby Guelph . Hamilton Hawksvil Hinchinb Jubilee . Kingston

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	\$6,462 00 is the amount granted in the above list, w	hich
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	Collingwood 240 00 Orangeville 32	5 00
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	Caradoc	0 00
	Collinsby 250 00 Plympton	5 00
\$ cts.	Guelph	0 00
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. 901 04	Hawksville 200 00 Walsingham 21	0 00
935 21	Hinchinbrook 100 00 Woodstock 24	0 00
. 390 46	Jubilee 350 00	0 00
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ADDRESSES OF THE STATIONS, For 1867-8.

«N	President of Confession For 1867-8.
-	President of Conference Rev. R. Cade, London,
	Secretary Conference Rev. R. Cade, London. Secretary of Conference Rev. J. Markham, Victoria Sq., Markham. Theol. Tutor & Ed. Ch. Jon., Rev. T. Crompton. Albert et al. Miss. Sec. & Book Steward D. T. Rev. T. Crompton.
	Anso. Putor & Ed. Ch. Jour., Rev. T. Crompton, Albert st., Toronto, General Treasurer. Rev. W. Rowe, box 253, Toronto, General Treasurer. Robt. Walker, Esp. King-Street.
	General Treasurer Robt. Walker. Esqr. King Street, Toronto. Zoronto Robt. Walker. Esqr. King Street, Toronto. Zoronto Rev. J. Edgar, box 353 Toxonto.
	Toronto Robt. Walker, Esqr., King Street The
	Toronto Robt. Walker. Esgr., King Street, Toronto. Yorkville Branch Rev. J. Edgar, box 353, Toronto. Markhow Rev. W. Herridge, V.
	Yorkville Branch. Rev. J. Edgar, box 353, Toronto. Markham Rev. W. Herridge, Yorkville. Rev. Joseph Met.
	Markham Rev. W. Herridge, Yorkville. Rev. Joseph Markham, Victoria Square. Bowmannille Rev. J. W. Gilpin, Clarence.
1	BowmanvilleRev. J. W. Gilpin, Claremont
1	Rev. Joseph Markham, Victoria Square, Boumanville Rev. J. W. Gilpin, Claremont. Searboro Rev. J. Nattras, Wexford. Rev. J. Nattras, Wexford.
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	Harrie Rev. M. H. Matthews, Bradford, Hamilton Rev. T. Grtffith, Barrie. Rev. J. Milnes H. Barrie.
	Brantford Rev & D to Dudley, Drumbo.
- 1	Brantford Rev. Thomas Dudley, Drumbo. Paris. Rev. S. P. Lacey, Brantford. Grand River Rev. George Haigh, Paris. Rev. W. Brantford.
	Grand River Rev. George Haigh, Paris. Walsingham Rev. W. Pyke, York. Woodstock Rev. M. H. Moody, Walsingham. Juelph Rev. W. Codville. Woodstock
- 7	Woodstock Rev. W. H. Moody, Walsingham, butph Rev. George Woodstock, but by Rev. George Woodstock
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PASTORAL ADDRESS,

To the Men bers of the Primitive Methodist Church, from the Canadian Conference.

DEAR BRETT REN,

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We gree; you as fellow-labourers and sufferers in the gospel and tr bulation of Jesus Christ.

Another year of labour in the Master's work is over, and we rejoice in the assurance that it has not been in vain in the Lord. In many parts of the connexion successful revivals have occurred, and many souls have been given to crown our joy. After covering the losses sustained by removals to listant fields, where as yet we have no means to reach then, we are still enabled to report an encouraging increase. The financial returns indicate much health and vigor, being nearly two thousand dollars advance in missionary funds and a still better show in annual income. It is with much pleasure that we note evidences of increased liberality on he part of our people. Our Toronto friends have done wenders in this respect, and deserve special commendation. During the year none of our ministers have been removed by death, but the exigences of the work demand more men than seem at present available. The door stands open to young men whose hearts are alive to the work of saving souls. This question of sustaining our work by a capable ministry has pressed so seriously upon the Conference, that after calm and full deliberation, it has determined to establish in Toronto a Theological Institute, under the personal superintendence of one of our ministers, whose business it shall be to deliver lectures, and to place promising young men in training for the effective discharge of their duties. In sympathy with this purpose, \$300 have been offered by Toronto alone, and other sums have been promised, to which the Conference recommends that \$600 be added by voluntary contributions throughout the Church in Canada. As all Stations are interested in obtaining efficient ministers, it is hoped that they will heartily cooperate in providing the means. A competent committee will arrange all the details, and set the Institute in immediate

working order. In common with his duties as Tutor, the Editorship of the Christian Journal will be combined, and as the paper is in improving circumstances, will derive a portion of his salary from that source.

The Book concern and Missionary Secretaryship have been placed in the hands of a man every way ad upted for the work, and whose office it will be to thoroughly develope our Book business, and do all in his power to assist our increasing Missionary operations. With the whole-hearted cooperation of the Church, these varions Institutions, yet in their youth, may speedily be made self-sustaining, and have vast influence for good.

In some of our cities and towns the cause is making progress: capacious churches are rising up, and the masses are gathering around the standard of our faith. In preserving the sanctity of the Sabbath, advocacy of Temperance claims, an entire disuse of tobacco, the Conference took high ground, and spoke with emphatic utterance. The whole sittings were characterized by the deepest interest and the greatest harmony. The religious services were sustained with power from on high, and resulted in the conversion of souls.

In conclusion, suffer the word of exhortation. Brethren, rise with increased courage, and go forward again into the work, and the Lord will increase your greatness on every side. As Local Preachers, stand by the cross of a crucified and risen Christ, making Him your glory and your theme: as Leaders, diligently watch the flock of God entrusted to your care: as Stewards, deal bountfully with them who come to you in the stead of God: as Members, be true to the cause, and regular at the means of grace: as Christians, be upright amoug men, burning and shining lights in the world, sanctified wholly in heart and life, and, pressing on, arrive at length upon the heavenly mountain top, and in those broad and beautiful uplands dwell when the day of eternity dawns, and the shadows of this life flee away.

On behalf of the Conference,

ROBERT CADE. . JOSEPH MARKHAM.

Toronto, 14th June, 1867.

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Published by request of the Primitive Methodist Conference,

A CHARGE,

Delivered at the Ordination of Five Young Ministers,
In Alice Street Church, Toronto, June 11th, 1867.

BY REV. JOHN DAVISON.

My DEAR BRETHREN,

The associations of this evening are profoundly important. You are the observed of more observers than crowd these courts: invisible beings are assembled here—angels of God, who are ministering spirits. The eyes of Justice and Holiness are upon us: and the reminiscences of this scene will react upon us forever.

This Ordination Service will invest you with the powers by which you may perform all the duties of the Pastorship, wherever by the grace of God, and the Primitive Methodist Conference, you may be appointed to labour in word and doctrine. Allow me, then, to address you,

I. On your personal interest in the great work to which you stand committed. You have just now avowed your consecration to the work of preaching the gospel, and thus, assuming your convictions to be real, there should be forthwith a deeper earnestness in offering up on the ALTAR of God your souls and bodies living sacrifices. You have, in the word of God and our church history, examples to direct you in such acts of unreserved surrender. In this absolute devotion to the work of the sanctuary, the "CONVERTING GIFT" is received. This special gift to convert sinners was exercised in the Apostolic times—in early Methodism—and in our own Church, with remarkable suc-

cess. Strong faith in God is united with this spiritual power,—joy in the Holy Ghost, and confidence in realizing present fruit. There will, however, be the trial of faith—deep sorrow: the "travel in birth" for souls will be found at certain seasons inexpressible; but the ancient Prophets, Apostles, Reformers, and our Fathers in Isreal have bequeathed their testimonies to admonish, instruct, and encourage you in these matters of experience.

Along with universal devotedness in the sacred calling, there is demanded a consistent deportment of Seriousness and Earnestness. Baxter says, the serious preacher, that speaks as if he saw the face of God, doth more affect my heart, though with common words, than an irreverant man with the most exquisite preparations. The wit used in the pulpit is usually clumsy, and would be better excluded; and when employed in private circles, is apt to sink into trifling and buffoonery.

Earnestness—not the earnestness of beating the air with vehement noise and rapsody, but the earnestness of principle, with enlightened zeal, to honour God and save souls. It will follow, that the habit and spirit of prayer must be vital and predominent. All who have risen to usefulness in our churches have been great pleaders with God. Father Clowes said, "I dare not leave my room until God gives me the congregation; then I ascend the pulpit with majesty." John Oxtoby was intellectually weak, but a Samson in prayer; and these are the men whose converts are to be found in every quarter of the globe.

But, dear Brethren, your personal interest in God's great work will be much determined by the rank you take in intellectual ability. There is not much difference in the original faculties of men—the difference is created by self culture and developement. Your ministry will require all the mental furniture that you can possibly accumulate.

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Paul speaks to Timothy about being apt to teach. I congratulate you, beloved friends, that you have passed examinations in Theological and other departments of study, during your probation, with credit, consequently, it is presumed you are fitted for ministerial teaching. But it is vitally important you still advance in the scale of progress. The status of mind that passed muster thirty years ago will not do now. This young Dominion of Canada is being rapidly covered with Schools and Colleges; and the rising race that you will address are acquiring the philosophy of language and literature with an energy that is surprising. All are hard readers now; and the press is feeding the minds of our youth, and that mind is devouring almost every thing that it reaches. Sabbath Schools are making our children biblical critics and theologians; and if you do not march a-head, you will soon be found in the rear of your battalions.

In being received into full connexion with the Confer-ENCE, take care not to rest in present attainments, and relapse into indolence, by tinkering up old subjects, and becoming stereotyped. You must labour-work up and digest the treasures of thought found in the Bible and kindred sources. It is a true maxim, " Labor omnia vincit." You must work; be " workmen that need not be ashamed. rightly dividing the word of truth.". Our Connexional Fathers had working souls. Clowes, after a hard weeks' work at his original profession, attended a theological meeting on a Saturday evening, to acquire knowledge to fit him for the pulpit on the Sabbath. Here we have a precedent for our Theological Institution in Canada, in which our rising youth may be trained to become apt to teach and save souls.

To hold empire among your people, depend upon it your preaching must be intellectually solid, and full of the Holy Ghost. As a higher preparation is necessary than

that which formerly succeeded, so your work out of the pulpit is also much increased. You are now required to address public meetings: you must take hold of church building schemes: and that natural feeder, the Sabbath School, will require your closest attention, to preserve the rising youth from being lost to the church of God, and the teachers from becoming weary in well doing. Then, there is the field of Pastoral Visiting, which if neglected will be fatal to your success. And here I would intimate that the active spirit of competition is not limited to the market; it runs high among the churches: and to keep up with other Denominations, you will require to row with double oars, and steam at full speed.

In this connection, whilst I advise the repudiation of bigotry, I would urge you to be heart and soul with your own people, and lovers of all who hold the truth in the form of sound words. It has been suggested among some ecclesiastical politicians that there should be only one MEHODIST CHURCH in Canada—that all should be bolted together, and one grand frigate launched on her triumphant course; but whether this bolting or "absorption" would answer all the purposes contemplated, is to me very questionable. However, all that I advise on church politics, as the progress of time brings up their various phases, is for you to exercise your judgment, and earnest prayers that measures may be rightly adjusted, to secure the spiritual advantage of our country. As I hold that our church is the child of Providence, having a special mission, -not originating in division, nor a branch riven from any parent stock-I say, guard its ancient land marks from being obliterated.

And here let me urge you to be faithful to your professed principles. Do not adopt new-fangled notions; nor, by riding certain hobbies, disturb the minds of your people, and sow dragon's teeth. Keep the unity

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of the spirit, in the bonds of peace. If you should change your views, do not continue to eat the church's bread amid strife and disunion: honorably resign, and go about your business. Be FAITHFUL: the Primitive Methodst Churches have suffered greatly by nourishing and bringing up children, who have not rebelled, but who have deserted the home in which they had been born and trained. Many have been raised from the lowest strata to respectable position: they became popular: they spread their sails, and bore away: others, it is feared on the scent after gain, sneaked off. In most cases, these loose fish are never highly prized by those into whose nets they get drifted. Still, it must be allowed, in special cases, ministers may be justified in changing their church relations. But, Brethren, maintain your honor and manhood, and hold to your church as the BRIDE of your earlier affections, "for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do you part."

In order that your intellect may have range, take care of your bodies: do not impair them by useless wear and tear, especially in preaching long sermons, which, in this country, are insupportable, and which waste the congregations. In addition to your labours, do not join studies that are incompatible, such as dabbling in medicine, politics, or trading—abhor strong drink and tobacco: you cannot tamper with these things with impunity, and not suffer unspeakable loss.

Allow me, dear Friends, to urge you to consistency and functuality. Never waste precious time in *lingering* in places of business, &c.; or even, when on family visiting, stopping to indulge in idle conversation; but, as you have your time at your own disposal, be ever employed, and usefully employed. Be cautious how you commit yourselves to declarations made: carefully examine both sides of a question, before reaching a decision, Audi alteram par-

tem—" Hear both sides." Be men of your word; not blowing hot and cold, and shaping a subtle character. Develope a simple spirit—open as the day, and accessible to all. Punctuality! This is said to be the soul of business; and it should ever be yours to meet every engagement at the proper time and place. Never let it be necessary for you to be driven to make lame apologies for neglect of preaching appointments; and lag behind time in commencing divine services, which damages a minister's reputation and usefulness, however talented and pious.

Again, it is expected that ministers in our Denomination should be peaceable men, cherishing a meek and quiet spirit—discouraging irritating discussion and wrangling in official meetings; but maintaining the discipline of the church by firmness on the one hand, and courtesy of deportment on the other. Cultivate a soul of friendship to those colleagues with whom you may be stationed; and submit to the judgment and cooperate with your Superintender and Official Brethren heartily, in the management of church affairs. Cherish a generous sympathy for the Senior Ministers, and for those retired from the active work, who fought the battles, and manned the walls of Zion, before you were born. You have entered into their labours; may you be worthy sons of those venerable sires, testifying until death the gospel of the grace of God.

II. I will now pass to another GENERAL TOPIC your relation to the work of the Ministry, in its bearings on others and the future.

In the prosecution of your labours, you have to deal with beings—rational and endowed with moral capacity—but who have fallen into darkness and guilt. Hence, you will be confronted with corrupt passion, worldly influence, and satanic agency; these will concentrate their forces to neuteralize your efforts to save souls. Sinners will pro-

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crastinate, depending on some undefined period, until death arrives, and are found without God and without hope. To the dying sinner, in the final agony, you will be summoned to do your duty.

Then there are the difficulties of leading those who are in grace. Such are often warped by erroneous dogmas, urged with plausible eloquence and ingenious sophistry. Unstable souls will thus drift away, and be borne down on the reefs of danger. You will have to acquire skill to pilot, and anchor them safely in the GREAT ATONEMENT. The cases that you will have to grapple with will be numerous—old and young; saved and unsaved; the ignorant; the conceited; the weak and the strong. What a variety of phases will your hearers present, to whom you may give portions in due season. Your message will require to resemble those clever portraits in a room, the eyes of which being so expressive, look in the face of every person present.

And, Oh! ponder, my dear young Brethren, on the solemn and tremendous responsibility resting on you, each time you officiate. You stand between a God of iustice and a ruined world. Like Aaron, you are to rush between the living and the dead, to stay the burning plague. You are ambassadors for Christ: watchmen to the house of Israel: angels of the churches. These terms designate your character, and imply that you hold, and preach, important principles, to influence the destinies of men. Those principles are laid down in the Bibles you have just received, at the hands of the President of Conference: there you have the central truth of God's existence: the Trinity in unity: the Fall and Corruption of Man: the Atonement: Justification by Faith alone: Holiness and the Witness of the Spirit: eternal Rewards and Punishments.

FINALLY, very dear Brethren, suffer me to urge upon you, once more, advice paramount to all other-the experience of deeper sanctity of heart and life; then yours will be a brilliant career: you will have "seals to your ministry and souls for your hire": you will, at the close of the race on which you have started, say, as your Redeemer Jesus did, "Father, I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work thou gavest me to do." Then, soldiers of Christ, lead on to victory the sacramental host of God's elect, and die with your armour on. You will have your reward; not a perishable garland, that withers in the grasp, but a diadem of glory, that fadeth not away: "For those that sleep in the dust shall awake, some to everlasting life, and others to everlasting shame and contempt; but they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Amen."

R. 21.9.15

