# JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# SECOND

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

# METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA,

HELD

In the DORCHESTER STREET METHODIST CHURCH, in the City of Montreal, A.D. 1878.

TORONTO: PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL ROSE, 80 KING STREET EAST, FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA. 1878.

SECO

Extract from "JOURNAL OF GENERAL CONFERENCE," p. 127.

Resolved—"That the Rev. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, Secretary of the Conference, and the Rev. JOHN BREDIN, Journal Secretary, be and are hereby appointed to edit the General Conference Journal."

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Addison, H

Betts, J. E Bredin, Jo Briggs, Wi Burwash, M

Carroll, J., Clarke, J. S Clement, E Creighton,

Dewart, E. Douse, Joh

Fish, Charl

Green, Ans

Harper, E. Peterbo Hunt, John

Jeffers, W., Jeffery, T.

### LIST OF DELEGATES

TO THE

# SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

### METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

# TORONTO CONFERENCE DELEGATION. (72 MEMBERS.)

MINISTERS.

Addison, Peter, Trenton.

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Betts, J. E., Barrie. Bredin, John, Walkerton. Briggs, William, Toronto. Burwash, N., S.T.D., Cobourg.

Carroll, J., D.D., Don Mount. Clarke, J. S., Oshawa. Clement, E., Brampton. Creighton, K., Brighton.

Dewart, E. H., Toronto. Douse, John, Toronto.

Fish, Charles, Cobourg.

Green, Anson, D.D., Toronto.

Harper, E. B., M.A., *President*, Peterboro'. Hunt, John, Orangeville.

Jeffers, W., D.D., Lindsay. Jeffery, T. W., Toronto.

#### LAYMEN.

Armstrong, J. W., Flesherton. Austin, W. H., Trenton. Aylesworth, I. B., M.D., Collingwood.

Beatty, J., M.D., Cobourg. Beatty, William, LL.B., Parry Sound. Bickle, Henry, Brooklin. Bowles, Thomas, Mono Road. Brenton, John, Belleville.

Coatsworth, E., Toronto. Cox, G. A., Peterboro'.

Demill, T. C., Northport. Driffil, T., Bradford. Dundas, J. R., Lindsay.

Ford, Dr., Norwood. Francis, John, Madoc. Frost, A., Owen Sound.

Gibbs, W. H., M. P., Oshawa.

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(	iv)
MINISTERS.	1
Keough, Thomas S., Cooksville.	Holtby, T
Laird, J. G., Bowmanville.	Hunt, Alfr
Laird, W. H., Whitby. Learoyd, John, Picton.	Kennedy,
McCallum, J. W., Richmond Hill McDonald, D., M.D., Tokio, Jap McDowell, D. C., Owen Sound.	. Macdonald, Manning, J
Nelles, S. S., D.D., LL.D., Co. bourg.	Nixon, Tho Norris, G. J
Potts, John, D.D., Toronto.	Pearson, J. Platt, G. D.
Rose, Samuel, D. D., Toronto. Russ, A. E., M. A., Alliston. Ryerson, E., D. D., LL. D., Toronto.	Rosevear, J.
Shaw, John, Port Hope. Starr, J. H., Collingwood. Sutherland, A., Toronto.	Schell, Alfre Sissons, J., j St. John, G.
Tindall, W., Port Elgin.	Timmins, R.
	Washington

Willoughby, N. R., M.A., Belleville. Wood, E., D.D., Toronto. Young, George, D.D., Toronto.

LAYMEN.

homas, Brampton. red, Bracebridge.

Warring, Toronto.

J., M.P., Toronto. J., Schomberg.

omas, Winnipeg. A., M.D., Omemee.

J., Newmarket. ., B.A., Picton.

., Port Hope.

ed, Burgoyne. jun., Crown Hill. ., Victoria Corners.

, Walkerton.

Washington, S., Hampton. Webb, G. W., Colborne. Wilkes, Robert, Toronto. Wilson, John, Stirling.

# LONDON CONFERENCE DELEGATION. (68 MEMBERS.)

Andrews, Alfred, Strathroy.

Beatty, J. H., Thorold.

Brock, Thomas, Guelph.

Carson, J. E., Listowell. Clarkson, J. B., M.A., Brantford. Cornish, G. H., Grimsby. Cosford, Thomas, Muncey.

Fisher, A. S., Clinton.

Dickson, G. N. A., London.

Gray, W. M., Seaforth. Griffin, J. K., Waterdown.

#### Evans, E.,

Fowler, R.

Graham, J Gray, Jame Griffin, W.

Hannon, Ja Henderson, \*Hurlburt,

Langford, Lavell, C.,

McAlister. McDonagh,

Parker, W stock. Philp, John Preston, Ja:

Rice, S. D., Richardson, Robinson, J Ryckman, E Guelph.

Sanderson, ( Savage, Dav Slater, J. C. Sutherland, Swann, Matt

Wakefield, J Williams, J. Williams, W Willoughby,

Decease

**v**)

#### MINISTERS.

Evans, E., D.D., London.

Fowler, R., M.D., Clinton.

Graham, James, Seaforth. Gray, James, Port Dover. Griffin, W. S., Hamilton.

Hannon, James, Dundas. Henderson, W. C., M.A., Sarnia. \*Hurlburt, Asahel, Mitchell.

Langford, A., St. Catharines. Lavell, C., M.A., Mount Forest.

McAlister. James, Oakville. McDonagh, William, Paris.

Parker, Wm. R., M.A., Woodstock.
Philp, John, M.A., London.
Preston, James, Goderich.

Rice, S. D., D.D., St. Mary's. Richardson, George, Milton. Robinson, J. H., London. Ryckman, E. B., M.A., President, Guelph.

Sanderson, G. R., D.D., London. Savage, David, Tilsonburg. Slater, J. C., Thorold. Sutherland, D. G., B.D., Simcoe. Swann, Matthew, Drummondville.

Wakefield, John, Williams, J. A., D.D., Stratford. Williams, William, Hamilton. Willoughby, William, Cainsville.

Deceased.

#### LAYMEN.

Harrison, Johnson, Milton. Hay, Robert, Wyandott. Hilliard, T., Waterloo, Ont. Hopkins, B., Brownsville. Howell, Nelson, Jerseyville.

Johnston, Alex., London. Jones, Judge, Brantford. Junkin, S. S., St. Catharines.

Lane, J. B., Dorchester Station. Langford, Isaac, Birr. Latimer, W., Selton. Leech, W. H., Bluevale.

McCausland, J., Aylmer, Ont. McKenzie, R. W., Goderich. McKitrick, Thomas, Petrolia. McRoberts, A., St. George.

Palmer, R. C., Sarnia. Phelps, Noah, St. Catharines. Plewes, David, Brantford.

Sanford, W. E., Hamilton. Smith, J. H., Ancaster. Smith, M. S., Tilsonburg. Story, W. H., Acton, Ont. Sullivan, Capt. J. D., Windsor.

Tasker, William, Mount Forest.

Wallace, D., Ponsonby. Webster, George, London. Wigle, Alexander, Ruthven. Wilson, James, Waterford.

# MONTREAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION.

( vi )

#### MINISTERS.

Beaudry, Louis N., Montreal. Blackstock, W. S., St. Johns, Q. Bland, H. F., Montreal. Bond, Stephen, Pakenham. Borland, John, *President*, St. Johns, Q.

Campbell, Alexander, Morrisburg.

Davis, G. H., Prescott. Douglas, G., LL.D., Montreal.

Elliott, James, D.D., Brockville.

Galbraith, W., B.C.L., Kingston.

Hansford, Wm., Pembroke. Hooker, Leroy, Quebec.

McGill, Wm., Smith's Falls. McRitchie, George, Almonte.

Pitcher, J. T., Ottawa.

Robson, E., Lachute.

Scott, Wm., Dunham. Shaw, W. I., LL.B., Montreal. Sparling, J. W., B.D., Ottawa. Stafford, E. A., Ottawa.

Whiting, Richard, Cornwall. Williams, T. G., Matilda.

#### LAYMEN.

Adams, J., Edwardsburg. Allison, A. C., Dunbar.

Bishop, George, Montreal. Bissell, J., Algonquin, Ont.

Cairns, Thomas, Perth. Colby. C. C., M. P., Stanstead. Cunningham, H., Kingston.

Elliott, T., Arnprior.

Ferrier, Hon. J., Montreal. Fish, James, Lachute.

Gibson, R. A., Kars.

Hall, W. F., Napanee. Hume, G. B., Ottawa.

Irvine, James, Granby,

Kenney, R., Aylmer, Q.

Lambly, W. H., Inverness, Q. Lavell, M., M.D., Kingston.

Mitchell, S. E., Pembroke.

Orr, E. S., Cookshire.

Patrick, Sheriff, Brockville.

Smith, J. H., Frelighsburg. Warner, Sidney, Wilton. N

Angwin, J Brown, W

Coffin, Jose

Heartz, W. Huestis, G Huestis, S.

Jost, C., M

Nicolson, A

Rogers, J.

Taylor, Jam Temple, R.

# NEWBRUN

Currie, D.D

Duncan, R.,

Hart, Joseph

Lathern, J.,

Paisley, C. H Pickard, H., Pope, Henry

Sprague, H., Stewart, C.,

# NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE DELEGATION (22 MEMBERS.)

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(

MINISTERS.

Angwin, J. G., Pictou.

Brown, W. C., Liverpool.

Coffin, Joseph S., Horton.

Heartz, W. H., Halifax. Huestis, G. O., Maitland. Huestis, S. F., Halifax.

Jost, C., M.A., Hillsburg.

Nicolson, A. W., Halifax.

Rogers, J. A., Truro.

d.

Taylor, James, President, Arcadia. Temple, R. A., Amherst. LAYMEN.

Allison, D., LL.D., Halifax.

Black, A. B., Amherst. Burns, Stewart, Sidney, C. B.

Dudman, Sheriff, Yarmouth.

Huestis, W. B., Wallace.

Longworth, I., Truro.

Mack, J. N., M.P.P., Mill Village. McNeil, J. S., St. Mary's Bay. Miller, J. S., M.D., Canning. Morrow, J. B., Halifax.

Shannon, Hon. S. L., Halifax.

# NEWBRUNSWICK AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE DELEGATION. (13 EEMBERS.

Currie, D.D., Moncton.

Duncan, R., Marysville.

Hart, Joseph, President, St. John.

Lathern, J., Charlottetown.

Paisley, C. H., M.A., Woodstock. Pickard, H., D.D., Sackville. Pope, Henry, D.D., St. John.

Sprague, H., M.A., St. John. Stewart, C., D.D., Sackville. Coates, J. N., Smith's Creek.

Dawson, W. E., Charlottetown.

Inch, J. R., LL.D., Sackville.

Palmer, Sheriff, Gagetown.

Rowley, Alfred, Marysville.

Stockton, A. A., LL.B., St. John. Strong, Hon. W. G., Summerside. Veazey, John, St. Stephen.

# NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE DELEGATION. (6 MEMBERS.)

( viii )

MINISTERS.

Dove, James, Harbor Grace. Milligan, G. S., M.A., St. John's. President.

Peach, J. S., Carbonear.

LAYMEN. McNeil, I., J.P., Carbonear. Steer, J., M.H.A., St. John's. White, Hon. E., St. John's.

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Held in the

THE REV. O THE REV. S THE REV. A D. ALLISON, HIS HONOR THE REV. JO

THE SEC Conference the Dorchest on Wednesd The Press took the ch 218th hymn The Secre read the 15th The Revs the PRESIDE

# JOURNAL

OF THE

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

# METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA,

Held in the DORCHESTER STREET METHODIST CHURCH, in the City of Montreal, A.D., 1878.

THE REV. GEO. DOUGLAS, LL.D., President of the Conference. THE REV. SAMUEL DWIGHT RICE, D.D., Vice-President. THE REV. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, Secretary. D. ALLISON, LL.D., HIS HONOR JUDGE JONES, Assistant Secretaries. THE REV. JOHN BREDIN, Journal Secretary.

# WEDNESDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1878.

THE SECOND QUADRENNIAL MEETING of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada began in the Dorchester Street Church, Montreal, at nine o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, September 4th, 1878.

The President, Rev. EGERTON RYERSON, D.D., LL.D., took the chair and opened the session by giving out the 218th hymn, commencing, "See how great a flame aspires."

The Secretary of the last Conference, Rev. D. D. CURRIE, read the 15th Chapter of the Gospel by St. John.

The Revs. Anson GREEN, D.D., H. PICKARD, D.D., and the PRESIDENT offered prayer.

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The SECRETARY read the names of the Representatives elected by the Annual Conferences and District Meetings to compose this General Conference, whereupon one hundred and ninety-three delegates reported themselves present by responding to the call of their names.

The retiring PRESIDENT then addressed the Conference as follows :----

My DEAR BRETHREN :---

In October, 1874, the first General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada was held in the city of Toronto. That Conference consisted of an equal number of ministers and laymen; the former elected by the six Annual Conferences, one for every eight members, and the latter were elected by the laity of the Church. During the session of that Conference the union of the Wesleyan Methodist and New Connexion Churches in Canada was consummated, and the confederation of the three Wesleyan Conferences of the maritime provinces, and the three Conferences of what was formerly called Upper and Lower Canada, was completed; the whole Discipline was revised and adapted to the new conditions of the Church, and the various connexional funds and educational institutions were brought under a uniform management. Thus was the foundation laid for the united operations of all branches of our Church throughout the Dominion of Canada.

[I cannot here forbear noticing the extraordinary statements and absurd pretensions made by the Rev. Dr. Carman, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, at the recent General Conference of that body. He states that their recent General Conference, barring certain "perturbations," was virtually the thirteenth General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, and pretends that the body of which he is bishop is the legitimate successor of the Church which the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States authorised to constitute itself an independent body in Canada in 1828. This is a bold statement in the face of indubitable facts, and a bold pretension to annihilate the Methodist Church of Canada, with its six Annual Confer-

#### 1878.1

ences and Methodisn Carman i before 183 and set as highest co eral Confe the Unite vestigating had its bin of Canada, Episcopal our separ preacher, Carman ca tion he cal of the Me

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This was of our Chu have been, which it re collected an more impon arithmetical and civilize alone can infer someth we may for number."

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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ences and General Conference, as the body which planted Methodism in this country; whereas the body of which Dr. Carman is the head, had not even a nominal existence before 1835, and his statements and pretensions are refuted and set aside, not only by facts, but by the decision of the highest court in the land, and by the decisions of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, on two occasions, on the reports of investigating committees. The episcopacy of Dr. Carman had its birth, not in the United States, nor in the Church of Canada, which was once connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, but with four of our separated local preachers and one superannuated preacher, whose meeting on Yonge Street in 1835 Dr. Carman calls "a General Conference," and whose ordination he calls episcopacy, and pretends its affiliation to that of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States !!

It has sometimes happened that parties which had originated in schism have become peaceful and useful; and sometimes persons born out of wedlock acquire, by personal qualities and conduct, respect for themselves and their progeny; but such should not forget the hole of the pit whence they were digged, or attempt, by the mere assumption of a name, to filch from the legitimate heirs the inheritance derived from their fathers.]

This was the commencement of a new era in the history of our Church. Our operations during the last four years have been, in many respects, an experiment, the results of which it remains for us to review, as far as the statistics collected and compiled will enable us to do so; for the more important part of the Church's work admits not of arithmetical computation; it belongs to that diviner life and civilization, the perfection of which a higher world alone can unfold. But from what may be seen, we can infer something of the unseen; and from numerical figures we may form some conception of whet "no man can number."

The statistics of our Church work since 1874, as far as I have been able to obtain them by the kindness of the Rev. George Cornish, may be stated as follows:

4

Statistical Synopsis of the Number of Ministers, Members, &c., of the Methodist Church of Canada, 1874 and 1878.

### I. MINISTERS.

1874.	1878.	Increase
Canada Conference 695 New Connexion Conference 113	London Conference         330           Toronto         "	
808	915	107
E. B. A. Conference 223 Total	Nova Scotia Conference         106           N. B. & P. E. I.         ''          95           Newfoundland         ''          49           250	
	Total 1165 sters have died during four years.	134

#### II.—MEMBERSHIP.

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1874.	1878.	Increase
Canada Conference 73557 New Connexion Conf 7439	London Conference	
80996	96802	15806
E. B. A. Conference 20950	Nova Scotia Conference 9912 N. B. & P. E. I. " 7871 Newfoundland " 8020	
Total 101946	25803 Total	4853

# III.—SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

1874.	Sch'ls.	Tea'rs	Sch'rs	1878.	Sch'ls.	Tea'rs	Sch'rs
Canada Conference New Connex. Con.	1002 154	9617 1089	71583 9000	London Conference Toronto " Montreal "	532 508 293	5735 4633 2310	43463 36160 17627
alere de tradici	1156	10706	80583	and a second second	1333	12678	97250
E. B. A. Conf	356	2571	20635	Nova Scotia Conf N. B. & P. E. I. " Newfoundland "	164 147 89	1305 1030 738	9352 8028 6342
Total	1512	13277	101218	Total	400 1733	3073 15751	23722 120972
				Increase	221	2474	19754

1878.

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CONFERENCES

Canada..... New Connexio E. B. A.\* ...

Total.....

\* None re

London ..... Toronto ..... Montreal.....

Total ....

Increase ...

Nova Scotia... \*N. B. & P. E. I \*Newfoundl'nd

\* No Repo

CONFEREN

Canada..... New Connexion

Total W

E. B. A., E. ..

Total ...

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rs, &c., 8.

# IV. - CHURCHES AND PARSONAGES.

1874.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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CONFERENCES.	Number of Chur'es.	Value.	Number Parson- ages,	Value.	Burial Gr'nds.	Value.	Total Value Ch. Property.
Canada New Connexion E. B. A.*	1255 251	\$2,573,174	306 68	\$400,067	238	\$44,049 	\$3,281,547 288,340
Total	1506	\$2,573,174	374	\$400,067	238	\$44,049	\$3,569,887

\* None reported in Minutes.

#### 1878.

London Toronto Montreal	645 611 358	\$1,507,500 1,481,060 1,163,950	155 149 110	\$282,794 248,360 172,333	····	 \$1,790,294 1,729,420 1,336,283
Total	1614	\$4,152,510	414	\$703,487		 \$1,855,997
Increase	108	\$1,579,336	40	\$303,45.0		 \$1,286,110
Nova Scotia *N. B. & P. E. I	182		49			 550,230
*Newfoundl'nd						 

\* No Reports.

# V.-CONNEXIONAL FUNDS. 1874.

CONFERENCES.	Contingent.	Educational	Superannuat'd Ministers.	Missionary.
Canada New Connexion	\$6038 33 235 08	\$2961 84	\$16453 25 319 66	\$117940 57 7727 01
Total W	\$6273 41	\$2961 84	\$16772 91	\$125667 58
E. B. A., E	\$1428 60	\$1370 07	\$3165 59	\$12257 13
Total	\$7702 01	\$3331 91	\$19938 50	\$137924 71

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..... 107 .....

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Increase. ..... .....

134

Increase.

..... ..... .....

15806 ..... .....

4853

20659

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Connexional	Funds-	(Continued.)	
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London Toronto Montreal	\$2441 86 2136 16 1469 00	\$2649 88 1793 63 1344 45	\$8837 56 8206 94 5730 17	\$37789 25 41008 04 26730 39
Total W	\$6046 02	\$5787 96	\$22774 67	
Nova Scotia N. B. & P. E. I Newfoundland	443 83 422 39 194 72	<b>\$</b> 528 00 522 71 228 63	\$1407 21 1140 13 874 00	11463 66 6831 30 6676 10
E	\$1060 94	\$1279 34	\$3421 34	
liscellaneous				8736 90
Total	\$7106 96	\$7067 30	\$26196 01	\$141475 12
Increase		\$3735 89	\$7257 51	\$3550 41

### VI.-MISSIONS.

	Missions.	Missionaries.	Members
Missions to the Indians in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Hudson's Bay Territory, and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec	44	<b>40</b> *	3013
Missions to the Japanese Missions to the Germans			
Missions to the Germans	4	9†	100
	5	3	284
British Columbia, Red Bivon and Alas	9	9	274
Districts	24	23	1320
DOMESTIC MISSIONS.			1320
Toronto Conference	54	64	0001
Montreal	47	57	6081
aron or car	74	80	4573 6342
a ora ocolla Conference	62	64	
		0x	6269
Conterence	46	49	3609
Newfoundland Conference	40	39	7300
	409	422	39165

In addition to the number of ordained Missionaries, there are 15 Native Assistants, and 5 Ministers on Circuits supplying small bands of Indians. There are 33 Schools and 33 Teachers, and 21 Interpreters; making a Paid Agency in the Missionary Department of the Methodist Church of Canada, of 496.

In 1874 there were 231 Missions, being an increase of 178. " 259 Missionaries, " 163. " total Paid Agency, 320, being an increase of 176.

\* 10 of these are Native Assistants.

† 5 of these are Native Japanese.

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This sta provement which hav which hav modes of schools; n ministers, growth of in the yea and culture of sacred n tions, and intellectual and literat formally c these statis us to say, thankfulnes courage us future.

All the i to in these will requir with a view strictest eco

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Equally, supply some at present co-orainate mere chairr a member o he happens of the body figure head,

# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

This statistical review does not include the great improvement, in every respect, of the numerous churches which have been erected and enlarged, and the parsonages which have been purchased or built; nor the improved modes of management and instruction in our Sundayschools; nor the advance in the thorough training of our ministers, and the manifest, and, I think, unparalleled growth of pulpit power in the ministrations of our Church; in the yearly advance of elevation and breadth of view and culture of our Church periodicals; in the improvement of sacred music and literary associations in our congregations, and in the wide-spread and wide spreading moral and intellectual influence of our educational institutions, pulpits, and literature upon a large portion of the community not formally connected with us in Church fellowship. But these statistics, imperfect and meagre as they are, prompt us to say, "What hath God wrought?" and excite in us thankfulness and praise for the past, and animate and encourage us to more fervent devotion and labour for the future.

All the institutions and departments of the work referred to in these statistics are but in their infancy; and they will require your careful inquiry, and perhaps revision, with a view to the utmost efficiency of their work and the strictest economy of their management.

I doubt not you will deem it necessary to revise and improve the system of the transfer of preachers from one conferential part of the work to another, when judged necessary, as the experiment of a Transfer Committee, introduced four years ago, has proved cumbrous, expensive and inefficient.

Equally, if not more, important will it be for you to supply some principle or authority of connexional unity, as at present our Connexion consists of a mere *congeries* of co-orainate annual Conferences, and your President is the mere chairman of the General Conference, and is not even a member of any annual Conference except that from which he happens to have been elected. The oneness and unity of the body of the Church obviously requires, not merely a figure head, but a real head, like that of the head of the

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natural body, as illustrated by the example of the Methodist Church both in England and in the United States.

In our deliberations on these various and important subjects, I trust we will study economy of time, practise diligence of labour, exercise impartiality of judgment, and cultivate liberality and charity of spirit. There are two sections of the second chapter of our Discipline worthy of our special attention at this time, and are applicable alike to laymen and ministers. The second section is headed, "The necessity of union among ourselves." The sixth section is headed, "Our Deportment at Conference," and is thus expressed in the words of the venerable Wesley :

"It is desired that all things be considered on these occasions as in the immediate presence of God; that every person speak freely whatever is in his heart.

"Question. How may we best improve our time at the

"Answer. 1. While we are conversing [or discussing], let "us have an especial care to set God always before us.

"2. In the intermediate hours, let us redeem all the time "we can for private exercises."

"3. Therein let us give ourselves to prayer for one "another, and for a blessing on our labours."

There are some things which should ever be present and fresh in our memories and hearts. We should never forget, that Methodism was not born of faction, or division, or party, but that it was the revival of primitive Protestantism and of primitive Christianity—that it commenced with repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of its converts, and that the sole purpose of its origin and existence, is to spread Scriptural holiness over the land—over all lands. Such is our calling and vocation. Faithfulness to it is our safety, our duty, our happiness.

Nor should we be less impressed with the recollection of the vital doctrines which have characterized the ministrations and work of Methodism from its birth to its maturity: the fall and depravity of man, his universal redemption by the sacrifice and atonement of Christ, justification by faith in Christ, regeneration, the witness of the Spirit,

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The p marked, she adher owed her than of t Church, a us birth, and pred diligence religious to us, and

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

entire sanctification by the Holy Ghost, everlasting punishment for the finally impenitent, and everlasting life for the righteous. In these doctrines, truly believed and faithfully proclaimed, Methodism lives, moves, and has its being. Fidelity to them has never been followed by failure; the diluting of them, or substituting anything else in their place, has always been followed by failure.

The pure and patriotic statesman Phocian wisely remarked, that "no state ever ceased to be prosperous while she adhered to those principles and institutions to which she owed her prosperity." This is no less true of the Church than of the State, and if we, as ministers and members of the Church, are loyal to the principles and institutions that gave us birth, and faithfully follow in the footsteps of our fathers and predecessors, in the practice of their self-denials, the diligence of their labours, and the depth and height of their religious experience, we will best fulfil the trust committed to us, and go on from conquering unto conquest.

But, above all, may we be impressed with the conviction that the Samson lock of our strength consists not merely or chiefly in the completeness of our organization, in the symmetry of our system, in the excellence of our discipline, or even the purity of our doctrines, but in the perennial flow and copious outpouring of the Holy Ghost, which renders every agency and every work of the Church quick and powerful to the pulling down every stronghold of opposition and planting the whole land with trees of righteousness. " Not by might or by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." No opposition can be arrayed against us, by the principalities and powers of darkness, whether in the form of infidelity or mobocracy, of vice or ignorance, of civil or ecclesiastical persecution, which has not been defeated and overcome. If our Canadian Methodism, under the power and plenitude of the Holy Ghost, has increased, within the recollection of some of us, in a new and wilderness country, from less than a score of ministerial labourers to more than a thousand, the members of our Church from less than ten thousand to more than one hundred and twenty thousand, our mission fund from a few hundred dollars to upwards of a hundred and forty thousand dollars, and our places of worship from a few

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frail "meeting-houses" to nearly two thousand commodious churches, which now dot the land, besides our noble educational institutions, and nearly two thousand Sunday-schools, what may we not expect in the future with our present varied and potent apparatus of agency, if we are strong in faith, fervent in spirit, and diligent in working? What may the two hundred elected ministers and laymen, composing this General Conference, be instrumental in doing, even during our sojourn in this city, if each one seeks the baptism of the Holy Ghost, seeks to make each family of whose hospitality he partakes, better than he found it, and evinces to all with whom he has intercourse that he has been with Jesus, and that his sole aim is to glorify the Saviour by living and spreading Scriptural holiness.

In retiring from the office with which you invested me four years ago, I am deeply sensible how feebly and imperfectly I have performed its duties, though I have endeavoured to act faithfully, and how much I owe to your kindness and indulgence. I return to that private station in the ministry of the Church on which I entered early in 1825, truly thankful for the Divine protection and blessing during so long a public life, and resolved, by Divine grace, to spend my last, as I have my early, days in the service of my Church and country, trusting to retain to the end an interest in your sympathies and prayers. The long day of my stormy life is closing with a cloudless evening sunshine, and my hope of the future is bright and glorious.

At the close of the address, the Conference proceeded to elect a President, whereupon-

The Rev. GEORGE DOUGLAS, LL.D., was chosen.

On being welcomed to the chair by the retiring President, the PRESIDENT-ELECT responded in appropriate terms, and afterwards requested the Conference to elect a Secretary.

A ballot was taken and the Rev. A. SUTHERLAND was chosen.

On motion it was resolved that the Conference adjourn to-day at half-past twelve, and meet again at half-past two o'clock.

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The ballot for the Assistant-Secretary was counted, and D. Allison, LL.D., was declared duly elected.

On motion it was resolved to prolong the session fifteen minutes.

The ballot for a second Assistant-Secretary was counted, and His Honor JUDGE JONES was declared duly elected.

The Rev. SAMUEL COLEY, Representative from the British Conference, was introduced by the President, and briefly addressed the Conference.

The benediction was pronounced, and the Conference adjourned at forty-five minutes past twelve o'clock.

# WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

SEPTEMBER 4TH.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. G. S. Milligan, A.M., and the Rev. Dr. Carroll.

The Minutes of the forenoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

The PRESIDENT requested that the Rev. J. B. CLARKSON, M.A., be permitted to take a seat on the platform, to assist him with occasional notes, &c. Permission was granted.

The Conference then proceeded to elect a Vice-President, and the Rev. SAMUEL DWIGHT RICE, D.D., was chosen.

On nomination of the Secretary, the Rev. JOHN BREDIN was appointed Journal Secretary.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Montreal, offering to the Conference the privileges of the Reading Room of that institution. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the courtesy in suitable terms.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Potts, seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, the Rev. Richard Jones, a visitor from the

Toronto Conference, was invited to occupy a seat on the Conference platform.

The Rev. Dr. Williams moved, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard,---

That a committee be appointed to draft rules for the regulation of the debates of the General Conference, and to report to-morrow morning.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. G. H. Davis, seconded by Mr. Sheriff Patrick,-

That the Rules of Order for the regulating of the business and debates of this Conference be the same as were adopted by the last General Conference, and printed in the Appendix to the Book of Discipline, section 5, page 193.

A vote was taken, and the amendment prevailed.

The Secretary asked instructions as to making a record of motions, amendments, &c., not adopted by the Conference. Whereupon the Rev. Dr. Williams moved, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard,—

That all the business brought before this Conference shall be recorded by the Secretary and placed in the Journal.

The resolution was adopted.

In reference to times of Conference sessions, the Rev. Dr. Evans moved, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green, that the Conference meet at nine o'clock a.m., and adjourn at halfpast twelve; meet again at half-past two p.m., and adjourn at half-past five o'clock.

In amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Stewart, that the Conference shall meet at nine o'clock a.m., and adjourn at one p.m.

As an amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. D. Wallace, that the Conference meet at nine a.m., and adjourn at twelve; meet again at two p.m., and adjourn at half-past five o'clock.

The amendment to the amendment was carried.

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That a Committee be appointed to nominate all Committees, standing and special, which may be ordered by this General Conference, such Committee to consist of one minister and one layman from each Annual Conference, such election to be by ballot, by the delegation from such Annual Conference.

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, A.M.,--

That a Committee on Nominations be appointed, to consist of one minister and one layman from each Annual Conference, to be elected by ballot by the delegates of said Annual Conferences, whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon the following subjects: (1) What Committees are necessary; (2) The persons of whom they shall be severally composed.

A vote was taken and the original resolution was sustained.

The Rev. Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. David Plewes,—

That the Conference adjourn for half an hour to enable the Representatives of the various Conferences to elect members of the Committee on Nominations.

The resolution was adopted, and lhe Conference adjourned for the purpose stated in the resolution.

Conference resumed its session at four o'clock, p.m., when the following persons were reported as constituting the Nominating Committee :—

Toronto Conference.—Rev. John Shaw, Warring Kennedy. London Conference.—Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., David Plewes.

Montreal Conference.-Rev. Dr. Elliott, Sheriff Patrick.

Nova Scotia Conference.—Rev. S. F. Huestis, J. B. Morrow.

New Brunswick and P. E. I. Conference.—Rev. Joseph Hart, J. R. Inch, LL.D.

Newfoundland Conference.-Rev. James Dove.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, seconded by the

That Standing Committees be appointed on each of the

following subjects, viz.:-1. Missions; 2. Education;

3. Publishing Interests; 4. Sunday Schools; 5. Itinerancy;

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, seconded by the

That Committees be appointed on the Superannuation

It was moved by I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., seconded by

That the Nominating Committee be directed to select a

It was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, seconded by the Rev.

Committee on the subject of Temperance.-Carried.

Fund, the Contingent Fund, the Children's Fund, and on

6. State of the Church ; 7. Discipline.-Carried.

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That a Committee be appointed on Administration of

It was moved in amendment by the Rev A. Sutherland, seconded by Judge Jones,-

That a Committee be appointed on the Government of the Church.

It was moved as an amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock, and seconded by the Rev. G. H. Davis,-

That whereas it has been intimated that there has been some difference of opinion among the several Annual Conferences in respect to certain questions of law leading to difference of administration; therefore, Resolved,-That a Committee be appointed to consider the advisability of adopting some measures in order to secure greater uniformity of Annual Conference action.

A vote having been taken on the several motions, the amendment was carried.

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Rev. Dr. Sanderson,-

Rev. J. H. Starr,-

Memorials.—Carried.

Mr. John Adams,-

W. Williams,—

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The Rev. Dr. Rose moved, and Mr. Warring Kennedy seconded,-

That the Nominating Committee be requested to appoint a Committee on Finance.—*Carried*.

The Rev. Dr. Nelles moved, and the Rev. E. H. Dewart seconded,-

That the Nominating Committee be requested to nominate a Committee to consider the Course of Study for Probationers —*Carried*.

The Rev. J. G. Angwin gave notice of motion as follows :---

That a Special Committee be appointed to take into consideration the desirability of inaugurating a scheme of Church Extension for this General Conference; and if said Committee deem such a scheme advisable or necessary, it report a constitution and rules for the examination of this General Conference.

The Conference adjourned at half-past five.

# THURSDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 5TH.

Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. James Taylor, President of the Nova Scotia Conference.

The minutes of yesterday's afternoon session were read by the Sectory and confirmed by the Conference.

It was oved by the Rev. Dr. Carroll and seconded by Dr. Norris,—

That a Committee be appointed to collect the Statistics of the Church and report to the next General Conference.

The resolution was laid on the table.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Williams and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson,—

That the Rules of Order adopted yesterday be amended so as to read,—1st. Petitions and Memorials, in calling of which the Journal order of Conferences shall be observed.

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. J. Shaw,—

That a Committee be appointed to consider the standing Rules of Order, with power to propose amendments to the same.

Pending the discussion, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green,—

That the Rules of Order adopted yesterday be reconsidered.

The motion to reconsider was carried, after which the resolution moved by the Rev. Dr. Williams was apodted.

The Rev. W. S. Griffin gave notice of the following motion :---

That section 4 of Rules of Order be amended to read as follows: All motions or resolutions shall be submitted in writing, and read first by the Proposer and then by the Secretary, before being discussed by the Conference.

It was moved by the Secretary of Conference, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Lecch,-

That a Notice Paper lie on the Secretary's table, on which shall be entered all notices of motion, and that such motions shall be called up for discussion in the order in which they appear on the said paper.

The resolution was adopted.

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The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, on behalf of the Committee on Nominations, presented Report No. 1, as follows :----

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# I. COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS. (23 Members.)

(-)	
Rev. Dr. Young.	Rev. James Dove.
Alex. Sutherland.	" J. S. Peach.
John Shaw.	Warring Kennedy.
Dr. Williams.	John Macdonald, M.P.
James Gray.	W. E. Sanford.
J. B. Clarkson.	Alex. Johnston.
Wm. Hansford.	Hon. Jas. Ferrier.
Alex. Campbell.	Sheriff Patrick.
James Taylor.	Henry Cunningham.
S. F. Huestis.	J. B. Morrow.
Joseph Hart.	W. E. Dawson.
Dr. Pickard.	

### II. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION. (22 Members.)

Rev.	Dr. Ryerson.	Rev. Joseph Hart.	
	Dr. Nelles.	John Lathern.	
**	Dr. Burwash.	G. S. Milligan, M.A.	
"	Dr. Potts.	Wm. Beatty, LL.B.	
	Dr. Rice.	Judge Jones.	
"	W. R. Parker, M.A.	Thomas Hilliard.	
	D. G. Sutherland, LL.B.	Thomas Elliott.	
**	W. I. Shaw, LL.B.	Michael Lavell, M.D.	
	J. W. Sparling, B.D.	D. Allison, LL.D.	
• •	Cranswick Jost, M.A.	J. R. Inch, LL.D.	
"	W. C. Brown.	Hon. J. Ferrier.	
	Dr. Stewart.	j orrior.	

# III. COMMITTEE ON PUBLISHING INTERESTS. (21 Members.)

Rev. Dr. Rose. E. H. Dewart. N. R. Willoughby, M.A. Rev. H. Sprague, M.A G. S. Milligan, M E. Coatsworth.	
N. K. Willoughby, M.A. E. Coatsworth	A
Dr. Rice. Warring Kennedy	
E. B. Ryckman, M.A. Noah Phelps.	
D. Savage. David Plewes.	
Wm. Scott. Hon, James Ferrier	
S. Bond. S. E. Mitchell.	
A. W. Nicolson. Hon. S. L. Shannon.	
W. H. Heartz. A. A. Stockton.	
" D. D. Currie.	

On motion, the Report was adopted.

The following Notices of Motion were presented :---

By the Rev. H. F. Bland,-

Whereas much irregularity exists in the administration of our Discipline with respect to Class-meeting attendance, and arising from this much perplexity in the minds of many of our ministers;

And whereas there is a widespread conviction that our Church polity, in this respect, admits of modification ;

Resolved—That a Special Committee be appointed to review the whole question, and report to an early session of the present Conference.

By Mr. Warring Kennedy,-

That the following be incorporated in .the Standing Rules of Order :

(1) All motions involving an expenditure of money, or the reduction of our income, from any source whatever, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance to report thereon.

(2) When any question is referred to a Committee, it shall be out of order for a member to introduce a motion in Conference involving the same subject until the Committee shall have reported thereon.

By the Hon. S. L. Shannon,---

That the Committee on Government take into consideration such measures as will tend to ensure the more harmonious working of the Methodist Church of Canada during the intervals of the sessions of the General Conference, and report thereon at an early day.

By Mr. W. E. Dawson,-

That it is expedient that Lay Representation be introduced into the Annual Conferences on the same basis as in the General Conference.

The Rev. E. Robson moved, and the Rev. W. McGill seconded, the following resolution, which was adopted,-

That the Committee on Nominations be instructed to nominate a Committee on Public Worship to which any 1878.]

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Resolution referred.

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Resolutions or Memorials relating to that subject may be referred.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rose, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Potts,---

That a Committee be appointed, to which shall be referred the Schedules now in use by the three Western Conferences, with a view to the adoption of a uniform Schedule for all the Conferences embraced in this General Conference, and that said Committee shall consist of two members from each Annual Conference, to be appointed by the Committee on Nominations.—*Carried*.

The call for Memorials was taken up, whereupon the following were presented and read, and referred to the various Committees, namely :---

From the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, in regard to order of public worship. Referred to Committee on Public Worship.

From the same, in regard to extension of pastoral term. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

From the Walkerton Financial District Meeting, in regard to transfer of that District to the London Conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

From the Rev. Mr. Lund, in reference to the Children's Fund. Referred to Committee on Children's Fund.

From the Sarnia District, in regard to certain changes in Discipline. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

From Brant Avenue Church, Brantford, in regard to extension of pastoral term. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

From the same in regard to Ministerial Candidates. Referred to Committee on Course of Study.

From Wellington Street Church, Brantford, in regard to extension of pastoral term. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

From the same, in regard to the Children's Fund. Referred to Committee on Children's Fund.

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It was moved by the Rev. W. C. Henderson, and seconded by the Rev. James Gray,---

That the Nominating Committee be instructed to nominate a Committee on Boundaries.—*Carried*.

The Reception of Memorials was resumed :----

From Dorchester Street Church, Montreal, in reference to certain exemptions from Children's Fund Assessment. Referred to the Committee on the Relation of Children to the Church.

On motion, the Order of Business was suspended, whereupon it was

Moved by Mr. A. McRoberts, seconded by the Rev. Jas. Gray,—

That a Committee be appointed to consider the relation of Children to the Church.—*Carried*.

Order of business was resumed, and the following additional Memorials were presented :---

From the Nova Scotia Conference, in regard to an increase of representatives on Quarterly Boards. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

From the same, in regard to basis of membership in our Church. Referred to the Committee on Class Meetings.

From the same, in regard to a naval chapel in Bermuda. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

From the same, in reference to the composition of the Stationing Committee. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

From the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, in regard to Transfers. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

From the same Conference, on the subject of a Book Room in St. John. Referred to the Committee on Publishing Interests.

Permission was given to withdraw a Memorial of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference on the subject of Missions. From Room in lishing Ir

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From the Newfoundland Conference, in regard to a Book Room in St. John's. Referred to the Committee on Publishing Interests.

From the same Conference, in regard to the Hymn Book. Referred to the same Committee.

From the same Conference, in regard to changes in Dis-Referred to the Committee on Discipline. cipline.

From the Whitby District, in regard to the appointment of one Missionary Secretary. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

From the same, in regard to the Superannuation Fund. Referred to Committee on said Fund.

From the same, in regard to Circuit invitations to min-Referred to Committee on Discipline. isters.

From the same, in regard to distribution of Parsonage property, on the division of a Circuit. Referred to Committee on Course of Study.

On motion, it was resolved that the report of the Central Board of the Missionary Society be the first order of the day for Monday next.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Potts and seconded by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery,-

That the order of the day, on Tuesday morning next, be the consideration of the report of the Hymn Book Committee. The motion was adopted.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the session was, on motion, prolonged half an hour.

It was moved by Mr. J. B. Lane, seconded by David Plewes.—

That the Nominating Committee be instructed to strike a Committee on Church and Parsonage Property .- Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

By Mr. W. H. Leech :---

That no Annual Conference or Stationing Committee shall have power to divide any District or alter the

boundaries thereof, unless such contemplated change be first submitted to the District Meeting of such District, and carried by a two-thirds majority of the members present. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. R. Duncan :---

Whereas it has been found difficult, if not impossible, to organise Trust Boards on many of our Curcuits and Missions according to the Discipline;

Therefore *Resolved*,—That the Committee on Discipline be requested to consider the expediency of so changing that part of the Discipline which requires all Trustees to be Members of our Church as to render eligible to the office of Trustee, under proper restrictions, Members of our Congregations.

By John Beatty, M.D. :--

I will move that section 4, sub-section (a) on the General Conference be so amended as to provide for the election of an alternate or alternates, to supply the place of delegates who cannot attend the sessions of the General Conference.

By the Rev. G. H. Cornish :---

That section 4 on page 114 of the Discipline under "Sources of Income," for the Superannuated Ministers' Fund, be so amended as to read, "From the Annual Subscriptions of all our Ministers and Probationers in the Active Work, which shall not be less than one and one-half per cent. on the amount of salary, the term salary being understood to include the items of salary, board, and fuel as now returned in the Church Schedules; to be paid to the Financial Secretary, &c.

By the Rev. J. G. Laird,-

That under our present confederated system of Church Government, this General Conference deems it inexpedient, except in cases of extreme necessity, for an Annual Conference to elect General Conference officers to offices the duties of which continue during the year, and which involve time and labour.

By the Rev. J. A. Rogers,-

That the Committee on Discipline be requested so to amend Ans 1. to Ques. 1, on the trial of accused members, 1878.]

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as to make the provisions for trial applicable to all circuits and stations in the several Annual Conferences.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Additional memorials were received :--From the Kingston Circuit, Montreal Conference, on Lay Delegation. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

The following overture by the Rev. Dr. Carroll was referred to the Committee on Discipline :----

Overture on the 3rd Section of Discipline, page 21.

1. The Title of the Section to read, as amended, thus,---

# ON THE OBLIGATIONS TO ATTEND ALL THE MEANS OF GRACE.

2. The emendation of the 3rd Question and Answers :----To read as amended :-Ques. 3. What shall we do with those members of our Church who, while they are blameless in morals and attend public worship, nevertheless, wilfully and habitually neglect family worship, the society meetings (such as prayer and class-meetings), and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; or any one of them ?

Ans. 1. Let the Superintendent of the circuit personally, or mediately through his colleagues, visit and expostulate with them, showing them the necessity of fulfilling those obligations of church members, and warning them of their exclusion from the church-roll if they continue to neglect.

Ans. 2. If they do not amend, let him who has the charge of the circuit exclude them (in the Church), showing that they are laid aside for a breach of our rules, and not for immoral conduct.

A letter was read from Mr. G. Cruickshank, Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute, offering to the Conference the privileges of the Reading Rooms of that institution. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the courtesy.

The following notice of reference was given by the Rev. Dr. Williams :-

That the answer to question 3, page 36 of the Discipline of '74 be so altered and amended as to read—" All members of Conference and preachers on trial in each District, and (except during the examination of ministerial character) the Recording Stewards of the several circuits and missions, &c.

That question third, page 38 of the Discipline of 1874 be placed after question twentieth.

That paragraph 2, under the head of Financial District Meetings, page 49, be so altered and amended as to read in the last clause—"Which shall be reported by the Chairman to the President of the Annual Conference and to the Missionary Secretaries.

Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, it was resolved that when Conference adjourns, it shall stand adjourned to meet at four o'clock p.m.

Conference adjourned at half-past twelve.

# THURSDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER, 5TH.

Conference resumed at four o'clock p.m. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Joseph Hart, President of the N. B. and P. E. I. Conference.

The minutes of the forenoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A.,-

That in notices of motion the name of the person giving notice be sufficient, in connection with such notice.

In amendment it was moved by J. R. Inch, LL.D., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Stewart,—

That any notice of motion shall have appended to it the names of at least two members of Conference as mover and seconder.

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A point of was raised sustained.

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Rev. Charle W. H Wm. A. Ar W. C. Wm. J. T. W. C. Dr. P

Jas. D

Rev. John J. E. E. B. D. C. Dr. W Dr. Sa A. La E. B. Geo. 1 G. H. Dr. E R. A. J. A. 1 \*\* S. F. .. 3

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

A point of order as to the legitimacy of the amendment was raised by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., but was not sustained.

The original motion was carried.

A Memorial from Graduates of Victoria College, asking for a change of charter, was presented. Referred to the Committee on Education.

The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented Report No. 2, as follows :---

# IV. COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

#### (21 Members.)

Rev.	Charles Fish.	
"	W. H. Laird.	
**	Wm. Briggs.	
**	A. Andrews.	
	W. C. Henderson,	M.A.
**	Wm. Galbraith.	
"	J. T. Pitcher.	
	W. C. Brown.	
	Dr. Pope.	
	Jas. Dove.	

Warring Kennedy. J. Brenton. J. K. Griffin. M. S. Smith. Johnson Harrison. A. C. Allison. T. P. Cairns. Dr. Miller. Stewart Burns. Hon. W. G. Strong. A. Rowley.

#### V. COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

(28 Members.)

Rev. John Shaw.	Rev. Dr. Pickard.
J. E. Betts.	" D. D. Currie.
E. B. Harper, M.A.	" R. Duncan.
" D. C. McDowell.	G. S. Milligan, M.A.
Dr. Williams.	James Dove.
" Dr. Sanderson.	" Wm. Tindall.
" A. Langford.	Dr. Beatty.
E. B. Ryckman, M.A.	J. W. Armstrong.
" Geo. McRitchie.	J. H. Beatty.
" G. H. Davis.	Capt. Sullivan.
" Dr. Elliott.	Sheriff Patrick.
R. A. Temple.	W. H. Lambly.
J. A. Rogers.	Hon. S. L. Shannon.
S. F. Huestis.	W. E. Dawson.

# VI. COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

#### (21 Members.)

Rev. Dr. Potts. John Learoyd. William Tindall. R. Fowler, M.D. John Wakefield. G. H. Cornish. John Borland. R. Whiting. James Taylor. R. A. Temple. Dr. Stewart.	Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A. "James Dove. Dr. Norris. Thomas Holtby. Isaac Langford. John McCausland. Sidney Warner. C. J. Bishop. J. B. Morrow. J. R. Inch, LL.D.	
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# VII. COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

#### (21 Members.)

Rev.	Dr. Jeffers.
**	E. Clement.
**	E. H. Dewart.
	Thomas Cosford.
"	Wm. Willoughby.
**	Wm. McDonagh.
"	L. N. Beaudry.
**	E. Robson.
	G. O. Huestis.
	J. A. Rogers.
**	Dr. Pope.

Rev. John Lathern. G. S. Milligan, M.A. Stephen Washington. I. B. Aylesworth, M.D. James Wilson. George Webster. Robert Kenny. John Adams. Israel Longworth. Hon. W. G. Strong.

# VIII. COMMITTEE ON THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

#### (21 Members.)

Rev.	K. Creighton. Dr. Green.	Rev. H. Sj " J. S.
"	John Dousé.	Thomas N
	Dr. Sanderson. W. S. Griffin.	G. A. Cox. A. McRob
"	William Williams. T. G. Williams.	A. S. Fishe
	William McGill.	James Fish James Biss
"	A. W. Nicolson. J. S. Coffin.	A. B. Black J. N. Coate
	Dr. Pickard.	J. N. Coate

Rev. H. Sprague, M.A. J. S. Peach. Thomas Nixon. G. A. Cox. A. McRoberts. A. S. Fisher. James Fish. James Bissell. A. B. Black. J. N. Coates. 1878.]

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

#### IX. COMMITTEE ON THE CONTINGENT FUND.

#### (16 Members.)

Rev. William Briggs.	Rev. J. S. Peach.
T. S. Keough.	G. W. Webb.
George Richardson.	Thomas Driffill.
James Hannon.	W. E. Sanford.
" Leroy Hooker.	Robert Hay.
E. A. Stafford.	E. S. Orr.
J. G. Angwin.	Stewart Burns.
R. Duncan.	J. N. Coates.

# X. COMMITTEE ON THE CHILDREN'S FUND.

#### (26 Members.)

Rev.	J. H. Starr.
	T. S. Keough.
"	John Hunt.
11	A. E. Russ, M.A.
	W. S. Griffin.
"	J. C. Slater.
"	H. F. Bland.
"	Leroy Hooker.
"	S. Bond.
**	James Taylor.
	W. H. Heartz.
"	J. G. Angwin.
	Dr. Pope.

Rev. D. D. Currie. " C. H Paisley, M.A. " G. S. Milligan, M.A. " J. S. Peach. John Francis. Thomas Bowles. David Plewes. J. B. Lane. W. M. Gray. Joseph H. Smith. G. B. Hume. A. B. Black. A. A. Stockton.

# XI. COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS.

#### (21 Members.)

Rev.	J. G. Laird.	J. R. I
"	T. W. Jeffery.	James
"	K. Creighton.	Donald
"	James Graham	Nelson
	James McAlister.	R. C.
"	William Hansford.	R. A. (
"	Alexander Campbell.	James
	G. O. Huestis.	Israel
	J. S. Coffin.	Alfred
·, II	John Lathern.	J. N. (
**	James Dove.	

J. R. Dundas. James Manning. Donald Wallace. Nelson Howell. R. C. Palmer. R. A. Gibson. James Irvine. Israel Longworth. Alfred Rowley. J. N. Coates. 27

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# XII. COMMITTEE ON COURSE OF STUDY AND EXAMINATIONS.

#### (22 Members.)

	ara critoci 3.)
 <ul> <li>E. B. Harper, M.A. Dr. Burwash.</li> <li>John Bredin.</li> <li>Dr. Sanderson.</li> <li>R. Fowler, M.D.</li> <li>W. R. Parker, M.A.</li> <li>J. W. Sparling, B.D.</li> <li>Dr. Elliott.</li> <li>C. Jost, M.A.</li> <li>W. C. Brown.</li> <li>Dr. Stewart.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A.</li> <li>G. S. Milligan, M.A.</li> <li>Dr. Nelles.</li> <li>W. H. Beatty, LL.B.</li> <li>Dr. Beatty.</li> <li>Judge Jones.</li> <li>Joseph H. Smith.</li> <li>Sheriff Patrick.</li> <li>W. H. Lambly.</li> <li>I. Longworth.</li> <li>J. R. Inch, LL.D.</li> </ul>

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, and

Resolved,—That the Standing Committees be allowed to retire as soon as possible, after their appointment, to complete their organization by the election of a Chairman and a Secretary for each; and that the results of such elections be reported to the Conference, and entered on the Journal, and indicated in the printed lists of these Committees.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rose, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That this Conference adjourn so soon as the Secretary of the Nomination Committee shall have read the names composing the various Committees.

The resolution was carried, and the Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

# FRIDAY MORNING,

#### SEPTEMBER 6TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. E. B. Harper, A.M., President of the Toronto Conference. 1878.]

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Rev. E. B.

The Minutes of yesterday's afternoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

#### MEMORIALS.

The order of the day was taken up, and Memorials called for. The following were presented :—

From Local Preachers and others in the Toronto Conference, in regard to right of appeal from decisions of Quarterly and District Meetings. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

From the London Conference, in regard to alterations in Constitution of the Children's Fund. Referred to Committee on Children's Fund.

From the same, in regard to the examination of Local Preachers. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

From the same, in regard to the division of Parsonage Property, in the event of the division of a Circuit. Referred to Committee on Church Property.

From the Montreal Conference in regard to the Children's Fund. Referred to Committee on said Fund.

From the same, in regard to a Course of Study for Can didates for the French work. Referred to Committee on Course of Study.

From the same, in regard to a French Translation of the Book of Discipline. Referred to Committee on Publishing Interests.

From the same, in regard to the management of the Missionary Society. Referred to Committee on Missions. From the same, in regard to rule on attendance at classmeeting. Laid on the table.

From the same, in regard to Stanstead Wesleyan College. Referred to the Committee on Education.

From the same, in regard to Contingent Commutation Fund. Referred to Committee on Contingent Fund.

From the same, in regard to a Methodist Periodical in the Province of Quebec. Referred to Committee on Publishing Interests.

From the same, in regard to Text-books for Course of Study. Referred to Committee on Course of Study.

From the same, in regard to a Change in the Time of Annual Conference Sessions. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

From the same, in regard to Extension of Pastoral Term. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

From the same, in regard to election of Alternates or Substitutes. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

From the same, in regard to Transferred Ministers. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

From the Perth District, Montreal Conference, in regard to Public Collections, instead of Anniversary Meetings, on behalf of the Educational Society. Referred to the Committee on Education.

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

By the Rev. J. H. Starr, in regard to study of Catechism. Referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

By the Rev. J. G. Laird, in regard to Lay Delegation in Annual Conferences. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. E. Clement, in regard to composition of Committees for trial of Church members. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. Douse, in regard to a change in Discipline. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. W. Galbraith, in regard to the duties of Superintendents. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

Notices of motion were presented as follows and laid on the table :---

By the Rev. E. Robson,—

### PUBLICATION OF SALARIES.

Resolved,—That, in the judgment of this General Conference, it would be wise to enter, in the printed minutes of each Annual Conference, the amount of salary paid to

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eneral Coned minutes ary paid to each minister and preacher, inclusive of what may have been received from Connexional Funds, but exclusive of the allowances for rent, horse-keeping and moving expenses.

By the Rev. E. Robson,-

### BAPTISM OF PROBATIONERS.

That the following clause be added to the Directory relating to Baptism: Let the minister, when receiving persons on trial for membership, particularly enquire whether or not they have been baptized, and, if not, let that rite be administered at the close of their term of probation.

By the Rev. E. Robson,—

### POWER TO ORDAIN.

That provision be made, in the revised Discipline of our Church, for the ordination of Probationers for our ministry, in Missionary Districts, by the Chairmen of those Districts, upon due authorization by the Annual Conference within the jurisdiction of which such Missionary Districts may be situate.

By the Rev. E. Robson,-

#### ON BAND SOCIETIES.

That Section 4, Chapter 3, Part 1st of the Book of Discipline be omitted in the next edition, believing, as we do, that the *Band Societies* therein referred to have been almost, if not altogether, discontinued in connection with our Church.

A notice of motion by the Rev. E. Robson, regarding "Forbidden Diversions," was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

A notice of motion by the Rev. E. Robson, regarding "Versing Hymns," was referred to the Committee on Public Worship.

Further notice of motion was given as follows :----

# By the Rev. E. Robson,-

# USE OF TOBACCO BY MINISTERS,

Whereas there is a rule, in the Discipline of our Church, requiring all Probationers for our ministry to abstain from the use of tobacco; and whereas there is no perceptible diminution in its use amongst us; and whereas there is reason to believe that the present position and treatment of the subject is calculated to encourage invidious distinctions, if not, indeed, the triffing with consciences; therefore, Resolved,—That the disciplinary question in reference to tobacco and drams be added to those asked annually respecting Ministers and Probationers alike; provided, that this shall only apply to those ministers and preachers who have been received on trial since the union of the different bodies now constituting the Methodist Church of Canada.

A notice of reference by the Rev. E. Robson, regarding the extension of the pastoral term, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

A notice of reference by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., regarding change of the Discipline, was referred to Committee on Discipline.

A notice of reference by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., regarding verbal alterations in the Discipline, was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

Further notices of motion were presented as follows, and laid on the table :----

By Mr. John Francis,-

I hereby give notice that I will on to-morrow move a resolution to prevent any amount being kept back for any purpose whatever from Superannuated Ministers out of Superannuated Ministers' Fund.

By Mr. John Francis,-

I hereby give notice that I will on to-morrow introduce a resolution that all communications for the *Guardian* from the "C. M. Church" shall not be inserted, as no such Church exists in Canada.

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By Mr. Thos. Hilliard,—

That in the election of representatives to the General Conference, the several Missionary Boards and the District Meetings, provision should be made for the appointment of substitutes to take the place of representatives unable to attend.

The Rev. W. S. Griffin gave notice of motion regarding Book of Discipline, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. C. H. Paisley gave notice of motion regarding the Course of Study, which was referred to Committee on the Course of Study.

The Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A., gave notice of the following motion,-

Whereas (by Discipline, p. 44, s. 16) candidates for our ministry who, after their reception on trial, may spend two years at a University or Theological School, shall be allowed one year on their probation; and whereas in the case of those who, during their probation, proceed to a degree, two years shall be allowed; and whereas it is desirable, as much as possible, to encourage those who seek to enter our ministry to acquire a Collegiate education before presenting themselves for reception on trial; therefore, *Resolved*, That permission be granted to annual Conferences to allow one year on their probation to graduates who may be received on trial for the ministry; said year not to be counted till the expiration of the third year.

The notice was laid on the table.

The Rev. J. Wakefield gave notice of motion regarding Quarterly Official Meetings, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. C. Jost, M.A., gave notice of the following motion,-

That the General Conference authorize the insertion in the Discipline of a clause to the effect that any member of our Church who is able to support the ministry and insti-3\*

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tutions of the Church, and does not do so, be dropped from the membership of the Church.

Laid on the table.

The Rev. G. H. Cornish gave notice of motion regarding the Superannuation Fund, which was referred to the Superannuation Fund Committee.

The Rev. R. Duncan gave notice of motion regarding Financial District Meetings, which was referred to the Com mittee on Discipline.

The Rev. Dr. Rice gave notice of motion on the Location of Ministers, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. R. Fowler, M.D., gave notice of motion regarding the Stationing Committee, which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

The Rev. Dr. Evans gave notice of motion regarding changes in the Discipline, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., gave notice of motion regarding the composition of the Stationing Committee, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. J. B. Clarkson also gave notice of the following motion,-

That Section IV. of the Discipline be amended so as to read,—"The President of the General Conference and the Presidents of the Conferences affected by the transfer."

The motion was laid on the table.

Dr. Allison gave notice of motion regarding the election of lay representatives, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. Dr. Jeffers moved the following resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. A. Sutherland,—

That the Standing Committees be directed to report distinctly on each document specially referred to them.

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Rev. P. A. Johr N.F 11 Jas. Tho Dav 11 T.G Alex G. 0 .. J. S. " D. D 11

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o report m. It was moved in amendment by the Rev. S. Bond, and seconded by the Rev. W. I. Shaw, LL.B.,-

That it be left discretionary with the Committees as to whether they shall report on every resolution referred to them.

The amendment was carried.

On motion the Order of Business was suspended to receive Report No. 3 of the Nominating Committee, which was presented by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., as follows :---

The Committee recommend the following additions, namely:

Rev. Dr. Nelles, to C	ommitte	ee on Course of Study.
Hon. J. Ferrier,	"	Education.
Hon. J. Ferrier,	66	Itinerancy.
Rev. J. Hart,	"	"
Alex. Johnston.	66	"
J. R. Inch, LL.D.,	66	Publishing Interests.
S. S. Junkin,	66	"
E. H. Dewart,	66	Discipline.
H. F. Bland,	"	Superan'd Ministers' Fund.
T. G. Williams,	66	Children's Fund.
J. T. Pitcher,	66	children's Fund.

### XIII. COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

#### (22 Members.)

Rev. P. Addison.	Day Labor Labor
Ichn C Clash	Rev. John Lathern.
" John S. Clark.	" James Dove.
N. R. Willoughby, M.A.	W. H. Beatty, LL.B.
" Jas. Preston.	Thomas Nixon.
Thomas Brock.	R. W. McKenzie.
" David Savage.	Captain Sullivan.
T. G. Williams.	J. K. Griffin. –
Alex. Campbell.	Dr. Lavell.
" G. O. Huestis.	A. C. Allison
J. S. Coffin.	Dr. Miller.
D. D. Currie.	A. Rowley.

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XIV. COMMITTEE ON THE	GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.	The Or
(24 /	Tembers.)	Standing
Rev. Dr. Ryerson. Dr. Jeffers. Dr. Young.	Rev. Dr. Stewart. " G. S. Milligan, M.A. " James Dove.	mittees r
James Gray. Joseph H. Robinson. Matthew Swann.	W. H. Austin. T. C. Demill. William Latimer.	Rev. Dr.
E. A. Stafford. A. W. Nicolson.	S. S. Junkin. Henry Cunningham. S. E. Mitchell.	Rev. Dr.
James Taylor. D. D. Currie. H. Sprague, M.A.	Hon. S. L. Shannon. D. Allison, LL.D.	Rev. Dr.
1 800, 1111	W. E. Dawson.	J. S. Mil
XV. Committee	EE ON FINANCE.	
(16 M	Tembers.)	Rev. Dr.
Rev. D. McDonald, M.D.	E. Coatsworth.	1007. 171.
" Dr. Evans.	Thomas Bowles.	Rev. Dr.
James Hannon.	John E. Carson. William Tasker.	1007. 101.
W. H. Heartz. William Hansford.	Dr. Miller.	Rev. Dr.
" R. Duncan.	Robert Kenny. Thomas Elliott.	nev. Dr.
J. S. Peach.	Hon. W. G. Strong.	Rev. Dr.
XVI. COMMITTEE ON PER		nev. Dr.
CHI	TION OF CHILDREN TO THE	Don W
	embers.)	Rev. W.
Rev. Dr. Carroll. "Dr. Jeffers. J. H. Starr.	Rev. Joseph Hart. " G. S. Milligan	Rev. W.
Dr. Evans. Charles Lavell. John Philp.	Thomas Nixon. J. Rosevear. Thos. McKittrick.	Rev. Jas.
J. T. Pitcher. Dr. Elliott. R. A. Temple.	W. H. Leech. James H. Smith. John Adams. A. B. Black.	Rev. E. E Secre
C. Jost, M.A. Dr. Stewart.	Hon. W. G. Strong.	The Se
The Report was adopted.		Committee
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The Order of Business was further suspended to allow the Standing Committees to report their organization. Committees reported as follows :---

#### MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Young, Chairman ; Rev. W. Hansford, Secretary. EDUCATION.

Rev. Dr. Rice, Chairman ; Rev. Dr. Burwash, Secretary. PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

Rev. Dr. Rice, Chairman; Rev. D. D. Currie, Secretary. SABBATH SCHOOLS.

J. S. Miller, M.D., Chairman ; Rev. A. A. Andrews, Sec'y. DISCIPLINE.

Rev. Dr. Pickard, Chairman ; Rev. Dr. Williams, Secretary. ITINERANCY.

Rev. Dr. Potts, Chairman ; Rev. G. H. Cornish, Secretary. STATE OF THE CHURCH.

Rev. Dr. Jeffers, Chairman; Rev. E. Robson, Secretary. SUPERANNUATION FUND.

Rev. Dr. Green, Chairman ; Rev. Dr. Sanderson, Secretary. CONTINGENT FUND.

Rev. W. Briggs, Chairman ; Rev. T. S. Keough, Secretary. CHILDREN'S FUND.

Rev. W. S. Griffin, Chairman; Rev. S. Bond, Secretary.

#### MEMORIALS.

Rev. Jas. McAlister, Chairman ; Rev. J. G. Laird, Secretary. COURSE OF STUDY.

Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., Chairman; Rev. C. Jost, M.A., Secretary.

The Secretary was instructed to furnish the Standing Committees with memorials and documents referred to them respectively.

The following resolution, of which notice had been previously given, was moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Potts,—

Whereas much irregularity exists in the administration of our Discipline with regard to class-meeting attendance, and arising from this much perplexity in the minds of many of our ministers; and whereas there is a widespread conviction that our Church polity in this respect admits of modification, it is moved that a special Committee be appointed to review the whole question, and report to an early session of the present Conference.

An amendment, moved by the Rev. W. Lathern, to refer the whole subject to the Committee on the State of the Church, was withdrawn by the mover, by permission of the Conference, and the original resolution was carried.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That the class-meeting question be made the first Order of the Day for Wednesday next.

The motion was adopted.

The report of the "Educational Society of the Methodist Church of Canada" was read by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, and on motion was received and referred to the Committee on Education.

The Rev. Dr. Young was requested by the Conference to preside at the Missionary Lovefeast this evening, and the Rev. Dr. Potts at the meeting for the Promotion of Holiness, on Saturday evening.

The Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 6TH.

The Conference met at two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Rose.

The minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

It was moved by the Rev. E. Robson, and seconded by the Rev. J. T. Pitcher,---

That the three documents presented to this Conference in relation to class-meetings, the first and second of which have been referred to the Committee on Discipline and the third of which new lies on the table, be now referred to the Committee on Class-meeting.

The motion was adopted.

NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

By the Rev. James Taylor. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. Wm. Scott, regarding the election of ministerial representatives to the General Conference. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By Mr. W. Latimer,-

That sub-section 1 of section 3 on page 34 of the Discipline be so altered as to read: The Stationing Committee in each Conference shall consist of the President, the Chairmen of Districts, and one layman from each District, such layman to be elected by ballot by the members of the District Meeting next preceding the Annual Conference.

The motion was laid on the table.

By the Rev. J. W. Sparling, B.D.,-

Whereas it is believed that the interests of the cause of God among us would be promoted by the location of some ministers for causes other than immorality, heresy, or age:

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Therefore, be it resolved that any Annual Conference shall have authority to locate any of its ministers by a vote of two-thirds of its members present and voting thereon.

The notice was laid on the table.

The Secretary gave notice of motion regarding the Stationing Committee. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Secretary gave notice of motion regarding Transfers. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

The Rev. J. A. Rogers gave notice of motion. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

Mr. Thomas Hilliard gave notice of motion regarding the Literary Attainments of Probationers. Referred to the Committee on the Course of Study.

The Rev. J. G. Laird gave notice of motion regarding the Children's Fund. Referred to the Committee on the Children's Fund.

The Secretary gave notice of motion suggesting certain changes in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. A. Andrews,-

I will move for a change in the method of conducting votes by ballot so that open nominations may precede all such votes. Every nomination must be seconded, and any member shall have the privilege of making a nomination, but there shall be no discussion, the ballot being at once taken after the nominations are all made, and only those nominated shall be balloted for.

The notice was laid on the table.

The Rev. J. G. Laird gave notice of motion regarding the Stationing Committee. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Secretary, by permission of Conference, read certain resolutions adopted by the Missionary Committee of Consul-

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certain Consultation and Finance, regarding Indian Schools; also correspondence between the General Secretaries and the Dominion Government on the same subject.

On motion, the documents read by the Secretary were re'erred to the Committee on Missions.

The Rev. Dr. Pickard, seconded by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., moved for a suspension of the rules, in order to the introduction of a resolution.

The motion was not sustained.

The Rev. Dr Nelles read the report of the Board of Management of Victoria College. On motion, the report was received.

The Rev. Richard Jones presented the report of the Treasurer of Victoria College, which, on motion, was received.

The Rev. Dr. Rose read the report of the Treasurer of the Endowment Fund of Victoria College.

It was moved by Mr. Noah Phelps, and seconded by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A.,—That-the report be adopted.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, seconded by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock,—That the report be re-committed, in order that details of investment be furnished.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by the Rev. W. C. Henderson,— That the report be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On a vote being taken, both amendments were lost, and the original motion for the adoption of the report was carried.

It was moved by Mr. E. Coatsworth, and seconded by the Rev. John Shaw,—

That the Rev. Dr. Rose be requested to furnish this Conference to-morrow morning with a statement of funds collected by the Agent of Victoria College, the amount of subscriptions, and the cost of collecting the same. The motion was adopted.

It was moved by D. Allison, LL.D., and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A.,-

That the Revs. A. Sutherland, John Bredin, Wm. I. Shaw, LL.B., and Judge Jones be appointed a Committee to make arrangements for securing the printing necessary for the several Committees, as well as for the Conference.

The motion was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery and seconded by the Rev. J. Learoyd,-

That all notices of motion be printed as soon as possible and circulated among the members of this General Conference, so that we may be enabled to form an opinion and to give expression to it in as few words as possible, and thus facilitate business.

The motion was not sustained.

The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., on behalf of the Nominating Committee, submitted Report No. 4, as follows :----

The Committee agree to recommend the following additions to Committees already appointed :----

Rev. James Gray, to Committee on Contingent Fund. Rev. G. H. Davis, W. E. Sanford, Education. Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., " Rev. J. G. Laird, 66 Children's Fund. Rev. John Hunt, 66 Temperance. Dr. Aylesworth, " Geo. A. Cox, " Missions.

# XVIII. COMMITTEE ON CLASS MEETINGS.

(27 Members.)

Rev. Dr. Carroll.	Rev. L. Hooker.
Dr. Jeffers.	" S. F. Huestis.
John Shaw.	R. A. Temple.
Dr. Rice.	W. C. Brown.
Joseph H. Robinson.	Dr. Pope.
Alex. Langford.	Di. Pope.
W. S. Blackstock.	" Dr. Stewart.
Dr. Elliott.	" H. Spragge, M.A.
	" G. S. Milligan, M.A.
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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Committee on Class Meetings-(Continued).

Rev. James Dove.	R. W. McKenzie.
Warring Kennedy.	Sidney Warner.
E. Coatsworth.	James Bissell.
Dr. Ford.	J. B. Morrow.
Noah Phelps.	W. E. Dawson.
Johnson Harrison.	

On motion, the report was re-committed that the name of the Rev. H. F. Bland might be added to the Committee on Class-meetings.

Mr. W. E. Sanford, Treasurer of the Educational Society, presented a report of the same, which, on motion, was received.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary of the Education Fund, and also the College reports, be referred to the Committee on Education.

The motion was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. J. G. Angwin, and seconded by Mr. J. B. Morrow,—

That a Special Committee be appointed to take into consideration the advisability of forming a scheme of Church Extension for this General Conference, and if the Committee deem such a scheme advisable or necessary, they shall report Constitution and Rules for examination by the Conference.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. I. Longworth gave notice of reference, as follows:-

That in future all candidates for the ministry of the Methodist Church of Canada shall undergo a medical examination, in addition to the one prescribed for their literary and moral qualifications; such medical examination, until the Conference makes rules therefor, to be similar to that required by Life Insurance Companies before granting their policies; so that no one of unsound physical organization may be received on trial.

Referred to the Committee on the Course of Study.

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Mr. Longworth also gave notice of motion concerning the Stationing Committee. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion it was resolved that a Session of Conference be held to-morrow forenoon, and that the afternoon be devoted to Committees.

The Conference adjourned at thirty-eight minutes past five.

# SATURDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 7TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Evans. The minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, submitted report No. 5, as follows :----

XIX. COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARIES. (18 Members.)

(	
Rev. D. C. McDowell. J. E. Betts. T. W. Jeffery. James McAlister. Thomas Brock. James Graham. Geo. McRitchie. William McGill. A. W. Nicolson.	Rev. R. Duncan. Robert Timmins. Dr. Ford. Nelson Howell. Donald Wallace. T. P. Cairns. G. B. Hume. Stewart Burns. A. A. Stockton.
X. COMMITTEE ON CHURC (19 / Rev. E. Clement.	CH AND PARSONAGE PROPERTY. Members.)
W. H. Laird. John Douse. William Williams. John Wakefield.	T. C. Demill. J. Rosevear. James Wilson. J. B. Lane. R. C. Palmer

## Wm. Scott.

- " L. N. Beaudry.
- J. G. Angwin.
- " Dr. Pope.

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The Committee recommend the following additions to Committees already appointed :---

Rev. A. E. Russ, to Com	mittee on	Missions.
Rev. D. McDonald, M.D.,	66	66
Rev. A. W. Nicolson,	66	Itinerancy.
Rev. C. Fish,	"	Education.

### XXI. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

### (21 Members.)

Rev.	Dr. Rose.
	Dr. Potts.
"	John Bredin.
	Charles Lavell, M.A.
"	Wm. McDonagh.
	Matthew Swann.
"	W. S. Blackstock.
"	H. F. Bland.
"	J. A. Rogers.
"	W. H. Heartz.
	Dr. Pickard

Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A. " J. S. Peach. Thomas Bowles. A. Hunt. Wm. Tasker. A. Wigle. G. Bishop. James Fish. J. B. Morrow. J. N. Coates.

### XXII. COMMITTEE ON SCHEDULES.

#### (10 Members.)

Rev. J. G. Laird.	Rev. J. W. Sparling, B.D.
J. S. Clarke.	" R. A. Temple,
Alfred Andrews.	" C. H. Paisley, M.A.
" George H. Cornish.	" H. Sprague, M.A.
W. I. Shaw, LL.B.	" G. S. Milligan, M.A.

# XXIII. COMMITTEE ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

(19 Members.)

Rev.	Wm. Tindall.
	P. Addison.
	J. B. Clarkson, M.A.
"	Dr. Evans.
"	in Ganoranni,
	R. Whiting.
"	J. G. Angwin.
	Dr. Pickard.
=	R. Duncan.

James Manning. J. Sissons. Dr. Norris. J. H. Beatty. Thomas Hilliard. Wm. Latimer. H. Cunningham. Robert Kenny. D. Allison, LL.D. A. Rowley.

The organization of the following Committees was reported :----

### TEMPERANCE.

Chairman, the Rev. N. R. Willoughby; Secretary, the Rev. John Hunt.

# GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson; Secretary, the Rev. A. W. Nicolson.

#### FINANCE,

Chairman, the Rev. R. Duncan ; Sec'y., Mr. J. E. Carson.

# RELATION OF CHILDREN TO THE CHURCH.

Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Evans; Secretary, the Rev. J. T. Pitcher.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.,-

That the Nominating Committee be directed to nominate a Committee of nine, who shall nominate the delegates to fraternal Conferences, to be elected by this Conference by ballot.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A.,—

That in the election of delegations to other Conference the following method shall be pursued :---

Any member of the General Conference may nominate without debate a delegate to any sister Conference or Church, and when such nominations are concluded, the Conference shall proceed to elect by ballot, without debate, from among those so nominated, one or more persons to compose such delegation.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. J. Wakefield, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Evans,—

That all fraternal delegations be elected by ballot without nomination of any sort, in the same manner as the General Conference officers are elected.

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It was moved by the Rev. J. Shaw, and seconded by the Rev. W. Tindall,-

That the President nominate a Committee to introduce fraternal delegates to this Conference.

The motion was carried.

On motion, Wednesday evening next was fixed for the reception of fraternal delegates.

On the Order of the Day being called,-

A memorial from the London Conference relating to the Christian Guardian, was presented and referred to the Committee on Publishing Interests.

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE

By the Rev. L. N. Beaudry, regarding a Ladies' Missionary Society. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

By the Rev. S. Bond, regarding the re-division of Conferences. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

By Mr. David Plewes, regarding hired Local Preachers. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By Mr. Warring Kennedy. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By Mr. W. Kennedy,-

That the Rev. Dr. Ryerson be respectfully requested to place the manuscript of his address, delivered on the occasion of his retirement from the presidential chair, in the hands of the Secretary, to be entered in the Journal of this Conference, with a view to its publication.

The motion was placed on the table.

By Mr. Warring Kennedy,-

That a Committee, composed of one delegate from each Conference, be nominated by the President to consider the

matter of a Day of Thanksgiving, and report at a subsequent sitting of this Conference.

The motion was placed on the table.

By the Rev. S. F. Huestis,-

That the Editors, Book-Stewards, Missionary Secretary, and other departmental officers, shall be elected by open nomination and ballot.

The notice was placed on the table.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams presented Report No. 1. of the Committee on Discipline, as follows :---

1. That in reference to the memorial asking that the Secretary of an Annual Conference may be a member of the Stationing Committee, the Committee deem it unadvisable to recommend the change asked for.

2. That in reference to the memorial asking that one of the Missionary Secretaries shall be entitled to sit in the Stationing Committee of each Annual Conference, we deem it not advisable to recommend any change in the Discipline in this respect.

3. We recommend that paragraph 4, page 34, be so altered and amended as to read,—

The first draft of stations shall be placed on the table of the Conference at the close of the first session, and the second and final draft not later than the day preceding the close of the Conference.

4. That the word "third," in paragraph 7, page 35, be changed to "second."

5. That in reference to the memorial from the Newfoundland Conference, as to the time when a minister may return to a circuit after leaving it, we deem it inexpedient to recommend any new rule in the premises.

Recommendation No. 1 was adopted.

To recommendation No. 2, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. A. E. Russ, M.A.,— 1878.]

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That the second clause of the Report of the Committee on Discipline be not sustained, but that the memorial remitted to said Committee yesterday be adopted.

The amendment was lost, and the recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

To recommendation No. 3, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.,—

That the second reading of the Stations may be at any time before the close of the Conference, as the Conference itself may order.

The amendment was lost, and the recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

Recommendation No. 4 was adopted.

The Session of Conference was, on motion, prolonged half an hour.

To recommendation No. 5, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Young,-

That this matter be remitted to the Committee for reconsideration, with a view to fixing a law on the subject referred to.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. W. C. Henderson, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A.,—

That no minister leaving a circuit shall be eligible to be re-appointed to the same until after the lapse of at least six years.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

It was then further moved in amendment to the amendment by the Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., and seconded by Mr. Warring Kennedy,—

That a minister shall not be re-appointed to a circuit within a less interval than three years.

The amendment to the amendment, moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, was carried.

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The Rev. Dr. Ryerson read a communication from the Rev. Enoch Wood, D.D., Missionary Secretary, tendering his resignation, and gave notice of a resolution regarding the same.

Both the communication and resolution were referred to the following Committee :---

The Revs. Dr. Ryerson, Dr. Rice, Dr. Pickard, Dr. Jeffers, and the Secretary of the Conference.

The Committee on Class-meetings reported organization as follows :---

Rev. J. H. Robinson, Chairman; Rev. R. A. Temple, Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. Shannon's notice of motion was referred to the Committee on the Government of the Church.

The following Committee was appointed to make arrangements for the introduction of fraternal delegates :---

The Hon. S. L. Shannon, Rev. Dr. Stewart, Hon. James Ferrier, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. J. Wakefield, Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A., and the Rev. H. F. Bland.

The Conference adjourned at fifty minutes past twelve, to meet again at nine o'clock on Monday morning.

# MONDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 9TH.

Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. J. H. Robinson.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

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It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,-

That the vote of Saturday, concerning the return of ministers to circuits, be taken as having been passed by the Conference by a two-thirds vote.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,---

That the resolution adopted on Saturday, in reference to the election of delegates to sister Conferences, be reconsidered.

The resolution was carried.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That said resolution be amended by omitting the words "any other delegate."

The resolution was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr Rice, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That Conference shall adjourn to-day at half-past twelve o'clock, and stand adjourned till nine o'clock a.m. to-morrow.

The resolution was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A.,--

That the Nominating Committee be requested to nominate a Committee to take into consideration the proposed Methodist General Council; and to recommend such course of action to the Conference, in reference to this matter, as they may deem expedient.

The resolution was adopted.

The Rev. William Taylor, of India, was introduced to the Conference by the President.

It was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,-

That the Rules of Order be suspended to consider two notices of motion having special reference to the Standing Rules of Order.

The motion was adopted.

The following resolution, of which previous notice had been given, was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. T. S. Keough,-

All motions involving an expenditure of money or the reduction of our income from any source whatever, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance to report thereon.

The resolution was adopted.

The following resolution, of which previous notice had been given, was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. T. S. Keough,-

That the following be incorporated in our Standing Rules of Order: When any question has been referred to a Committee, it shall be out of order for a member to introduce a motion in Conference involving the same subject, until the Committee shall have reported thereon.

The resolution was not adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Potts, and seconded by the Rev. W. I. Shaw, LL.B.,-

That as John Macdonald, M.P., the Lay Treasurer of the Missionary Society, is unavoidably prevented from taking the chair at the Missionary Meeting this evening, a most cordial invitation is hereby extended to the Hon. S. L. Shannon to occupy that position.

The resolution was carried.

#### MEMORIALS.

The Order of the Day being called, memorials were presented as follows :----

From the London Conference, regarding Circuit Schedules. Referred to the Committee on Schedules.

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From the Quarterly Board of the Centenary Church, Hamilton, regarding the Extension of the Pastoral Term. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

A similar memorial from the Quarterly Board of St. James' Street Church, Montreal. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

By the Rev. Charles Fish, in reference to attendance of Conference Students at class. Referred to the Committee on the Course of Study.

By the Rev. J. Lathern, in reference to the late Judge Wilmot.

Laid on the table.

By the Rev. T. S. Keough, in reference to Transfers. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

By Mr. S. S. Junkin, regarding Superannuation Fund. Referred to the Committee on the Superannuation Fund.

By Mr. I. Longworth, regarding Pastoral Visitation. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

By the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, regarding Mission Districts. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

It was moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland, and seconded by the Rev. W. Hansford,—

That the President nominate a Committee to draft an address of welcome, on behalf of this Conference, to the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, recognising in fitting terms their prospective relation to the government of this Dominion.

The motion was carried.

Mr. W. E. Sanford, seconded by the Rev. W. S. Griffin, gave notice of the following motion,-

That the General Conference be respectfully and earnestly requested to hold its session of 1882 in the Centenary Church, in the City of Hamilton.

[1878.

The Rev. A. Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer, submitted the Report of the Missionary Society for the past quadrennial period.

The Rev. S. F. Huestis submitted an appendix to the report, explaining deficits and making suggestions.

The report and appendix were referred to the Committee on Missions.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Williams, seconded by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, it was

Resolved,—That the report just submitted be printed for the use of the Conference and Committee.

J. R. Inch, LL.D., submitted the Report of the Board of Governors of Mount Allison Wesleyan College and Academies in Sackville, New Brunswick.

The report was referred to the Committee on Education.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson submitted the Report of the Superannuation Board, and moved that it be referred to the Superannuation Fund Committee.

In amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Williams, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard,—

That the report be referred to the Superannuation Fund Committee, and that the Standing Committee be requested to furnish a statement of the amount of investments and the nature of them.

The amendment was carried.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson read recommendations of the Superannuation Board, which were referred to the Committee on the Superannuation Fund.

The Rev. James Gray read the Report of the Contingent Fund Committee of the Western Section for the past four years. The Report was referred to the Committee on the Contingent Fund. 1878.]

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ingent t four æe on The Rev. R. Duncan presented a Report of the Finance Committee, which was referred back to the Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams submitted Report No. 2 of the Committee on Discipline, as follows :---

We recommend that the paragraph on page 78 of the Discipline which reads,—

"To make strict inquiry in the Local Preachers' Meeting at least once a quarter into the moral character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office," be expunged, and that the following be substituted :—

To make strict inquiry in the Leaders' Meeting, preceding the May Quarterly Meeting, into the moral character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office; and if there be no objection alleged and sustained they shall continue in office for the year; and in case there be no Leaders' Meeting, then the examination or inquiry shall be held at the Quarterly Official Meeting in May.

The recommendation was adopted.

We recommend that the words "31st of March" in the fourth line from the bottom on page 121 of the Discipline be changed so as to read 30th of April.

The matter was held over.

We recommend that the word "Board" be substituted for the word "Conference" in the last line of paragraph 2, page 115 of the Discipline; and that the word "Conferences" be substituted for "Conference" in the 4th line from the top of page 29; also that the word "discretion" in the 2nd line from the top of page 21 be changed to "direction."

The recommendation was adopted.

We recommend that answer 2 to question 1, section 9, page 54 of the Discipline be so altered and amended as to read,---

"The Leaders and Stewards of the circuit, one or more of whom may be appointed to take charge of the funds for the

The recommendation was adopted.

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The Rev. William Gibson, of the British Conference, and Mr. Shaw, who accompanied him, were introduced to the Conference by the President, and addressed the Conference in suitable terms.

On motion, leave of absence was given to Mr. Robert Timmins, and Mr. W. H. Lambly.

It was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. W. Tindall,-

That the Nominating Committee be instructed to add the name of Mr. Shell to the Committee on Boundaries.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Williams, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Gray, that this resolution lie on the table.

The amendment was carried.

Conference adjourned at forty minutes past twelve, to meet at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

# MONDAY EVENING,

### SEPTEMBER 9TH.

A Public Missionary Meeting, in connection with the General Conference, was held this evening in the Methodist Church, St. James Street. The introductory devotional exercises were conducted by the Vice-President, the Rev. Dr. Rice. The chair was taken by the Hon. S. L. Shannon, of

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9TH. ith the thodist nal exev. Dr. non, of Halifax, N.S. Interesting and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. Gibson, of the British Conference, the Rev. A. E. Russ, M.A., the Rev. D. McDonald, M.D., and the Rev. Wm. Taylor, of the South India Conference.

#### TUESDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 10TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. David Savage.

The Minutes of the preceding session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

The following notices of motion were presented and laid on the table :----

By the Rev. W. R. Parker,-

That inasmuch as the lay members of the local Missionary Committees of the Annual Conferences are to be appointed by the laymen of each Annual May District Meeting, and inasmuch as, at the sessions of the respective Annual Conferences, there may be the formation of *new Districts* which can have no lay representative at the next ensuing meetings of said Missionary Committees; therefore be it *Resolved*,—That in the event of the formation of any new District, as heretofore specified, it shall be competent for the Financial District Meeting of such new District to elect a lay representative to the Missionary Committee of said Annual Conference.

By Mr. J. B. Morrow,-

That the Committee on Discipline be requested so to revise the Form for Renewing the Covenant as to provide in the prefatory part of the ritual a recommendation that upon 4\*

the Sunday preceding the occurrence of the Covenant service a discourse be preached in each Circuit where such service is to be held, upon the nature and duty of individual consecration to God, and also a recommendation that either at the ordinary week-night service, or else at a special service to be held for the purpose, the design of the Covenant service be the special topic of the meeting,—the great object being a suitable preparation of the people to enter intelligently and earnestly into renewed covenant relation with God.

Also to so re-arrange the Form for Renewing the Covenant as to formally provide for a longer or shorter service, as the circumstances of the ministers' appointments and the case generally may require.

By the Hon. S. L. Shannon, concerning the practice of Methodist parents in sending their daughters to Roman Catholic Schools. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. Warring Kennedy called attention to inaccuracies in the printed lists of Committees, and, on motion, the lists were referred back to the Committee on Printing for correction.

A resolution of the Quarterly Meeting of the Kingston Circuit, Montreal Conference, was presented, requesting that the next meeting of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada be held in the City of Kingtson. Consideration deferred.

Further notices of motion were given, as follows :

By Mr. Thomas Nixon,-

That so soon as there are in the Red River District, fifteen ordained ministers, the said District may be set off as a separate Conference, provided two-thirds of the preachers forming the said District shall so decide at the regular May District Meeting.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

By Mr. Thomas Nixon,-

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That the Committee on Education be requested to consider the best mode of rendering assistance from the Educational Fund to candidates in training for the ministry from Manitoba and the adjacent territories.

The Rev. G. H. Cornish presented Report No. 1 of the Committee on Itinerancy. The report was received, and discussion thereon deferred.

### BEPORT OF THE HYMN-BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Rev. A. Sutherland presented Report of the Hymn-Book Committee of the Conference of 1874, and moved the adoption of the same, which was seconded by the Rev. J. Lathern.

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. Thomas Nixon and seconded by Mr. E. Coatsworth,—

That before being adopted the report of the Hymn-Book Committee be printed, with a supplement setting forth the numbers of the hymns omitted, the numbers of the hymns altered and the verses left out, and the books in which will be found the hymns that are to be added, and the numbers of the hymns contained in the same.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. J. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Warring Kennedy,---

That, for the use of the members of Conference, the numbers of hymns, and also the stanzas and lines, proposed to be omitted, be printed, and that the discussion be postponed until such report is prepared.

The amendment to the amendment was carried.

The Rev. Dr. Upham, delegate from the M. E. Church in the United States, was introduced to the Conference by the President and presented his credentials, which were read.

The Conference adjourned at a quarter-past twelve o'clock, to meet again at half-past two.

# TUESDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 10TH.

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Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Wm. Hansford.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELATION OF CHILDREN TO THE CHURCH.

The Report of the Committee on the "Relation of Children to the Church" was read by the Rev. J. T. Pitcher. The first recommendation of the Committee, suggesting the reference of a certain Memorial to the Committee on the Children's Fund, was adopted. The consideration of the remainder of the report was deferred.

# REPORTS OF SABBATH-SCHOOL BOARD.

The Rev. A. Andrews presented the Report of the Sabbath-school Board, which was referred to the Committee on Sabbath-schools.

Mr. Warring Kennedy presented the Financial Report of the Sabbath-school Board, which, on motion, was adopted.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams presented Report No. 3 of the Committee on Discipline, as follows :----

1. We recommend that Answer 3, Section 3, page 36 of the Discipline, and which reads,—"All members of Conference and preachers on trial in each District, the Recording Stewards," &c., be so altered and amended as to read,—All members of Conference stationed in each District, and Preachers on trial in each District, during the examination of character and the consideration of all min-

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The Report as follows :----

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

isterial affairs, which shall be the business of the first day; and on the second day, of Ministers, Preachers, the Recording Stewards of the several Circuits and Missions, and one other lay representative for each minister or preacher appointed, in addition to the Superintendent on each Circuit and Mission.

To recommendation No. 1, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, and seconded by the Rev. J. Wakefield,—That the following words be added : "And such Recording Stewards as may not have been so elected."

The amendment was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment by Judge Jones, and seconded by the Hon. W. G. Strong,—

That the first clause of the Report of the Committee on Discipline be referred back to the Committee with instructions to so amend the Discipline as not to exclude the Recording Stewards and other laymen from the District Meeting, except during the enquiry into the moral and religious character of the ministers who are members of the District Meeting.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by Mr. W. E. Dawson, and seconded by J. R. Inch, LL.D.,—

That lay members of the District Meeting may be present and vote upon all matters, except that of the examination of ministerial moral character, when they shall be requested by the chairman to withdraw.

Pending further discussion, this recommendation by the Committee was withdrawn.

By a vote of the Conference, leave of absence was given to Messrs. Robert Hay, M. S. Smith, William Tasker, and Thomas Bowles.

The Report of the Committee on Discipline was resumed as follows :----

2. In regard to the memorial in reference to the rights of preachers on trial to vote in District Meetings, the Committee are of opinion that the Discipline is sufficiently plain and gives them that right.

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3. Several resolutions in reference to the election of ministerial members of the General Conference having engaged the attention of the Committee, they cannot recommend the change sought.

4. In reference to the overture from the Halifax North Circuit, and also from the Halifax South Circuit, in relation to the enlargement of the Quarterly Official Board, the Committee deem no change in the premises necessary.

5. Also the overture asking that the phrase "representative" be changed to "steward," in Section 8, p. 53, on Quarterly Official Meetings, the Committee deem no change necessary.

6. Also the overture relating to the necessity of lessening the number of the Quarterly Official Board, by leaving out the representatives appointed by the societies, the Committee cannot recommend any change in the composition of the Quarterly Official Board.

7. The Committee recommend that the phrase "may be," page 53, 12 lines from the top, be altered so as to read "may have been."

On motion, the preceding recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

The Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., gave notice of motion to reconsider the transposition of Question third, page 33, to page 49.

The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING,

#### SEPTEMBER 11TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Pickard.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary, and confirmed by the Conference.

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## 1878. METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to Mr. Thomas Holtby.

On motion, leave was granted to the Committee on Class-meetings to retire, in order to complete their report for presentation to the Conference.

### MEMORIALS.

The following memorials were presented :----

From the Rev. J. Herbert Starr, referring to the Children of Ministers of the former Methodist New Connexion Church. Referred to the Committee on the Children's Fund.

From the Secretary, respecting the claims of Ministers on Mission Districts upon the Children's Fund. Referred to the Committee on the Children's Fund.

From the Directors of the Stanstead Wesleyan College, with accompanying resolutions. Referred to the Committee on Education.

From the Quarterly Meeting of the St. James Street Church, Montreal, respecting the Order of Public Worship. Referred to the Committee on Public Worship.

# NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

By the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., respecting University Examinations for Ladies. Referred to the Committee on Education.

By the Rev. Charles Fish, regarding a Memorial Service for Deceased Delegates. Referred to the Committee on Memorials, with instructions to prepare a suitable resolution referring to the lamented departure of the Hon. Judge Wilmot and the Rev. Asahel Hurlburt.

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By Mr. A. S. Fisher, regarding the return of Ministers to Circuits for a fourth year. Laid on the table.

By the Rev. James Gray, regarding the Japan Mission. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

By the Rev. A. Langford, regarding the Election of Representatives to Conference Missionary Committees. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. D. Savage, regarding the Order of Public Worship. Referred to the Committee on Public Worship.

By the Rev. John Douse, regarding the appointment of two Sunday-school Boards. Referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

By the Rev. James McAlister, in regard to certain changes in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Hon. S. L. Shannon, in regard to Uniformity in the Administration of the Lord's Supper. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. W. Scott, regarding the Mode of Baptism. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. D. D. Currie, in regard to Transfers. Laid on the table as notice of motion.

The Rev. C. H. Paisley obtained leave to refer his notice of motion, regarding the probation of College Graduates, to the Committee on Itinerancy.

By the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., in regard to Transfers. Laid on the table as notice of motion.

It was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A.,-

That the Report of the Book Committee be received this morning, and that the election of Book Stewards and Editors be the first Order of the Day for Thursday forenoon.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. W. Hansford, and seconded by the Rev. A. Campbell,---

That the Conference proceed with the Order of the Day.

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In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That the Order of the Day be discharged, and that the report of the Committee on Itinerancy be taken up and considered.

The amendment to the amendment was put to the Conference and carried.

The Rev. Dr. Kelly, delegate from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was introduced to the Conference by the President.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The Secretary read the report of the Committee on Itinerancy.

To Clause No. 1, concerning composition of Transfer Committee, it was moved in amendment by the Hon. Mr. Ferrier, and seconded by the Rev. J. Lathern,—

That in respect to transfers, on page 35, Section 4, the first clause be repealed, and the following be substituted : "That the President of the General Conference, with the Presidents of any two Annual Conferences which may be affected by the transfer of any minister, shall constitute a Committee of Transfer, and the decision of such Committee shall be final.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Leech,—

That the President of the General Conference and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall be a Committee for the transfer of ministers and preachers from one Annual Conference to another, subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin, that when the discussion on the pending subject shall ter-

minate in the afternoon session, the Conference shall adjourn to afford an oppportunity for Committees to meet.

The motion was adopted.

The Rev. Alexander Burns, D.D., LL.D., Principal of the Hamilton Female College, was introduced by the President and addressed the Conference.

A communication from Principal Dawson, of McGill College, was read by the Secretary, inviting the Conference to visit the museum, library, &c., of that Institution.

On motion a resolution, conveying the cordial thanks of the Conference, was ordered in reply.

The Secretary nominated the Revs. Dr. Nelles, C. Lavell, M.A., and J. B. Clarkson, M.A., as official letter-writers of the Conference. The nomination was confirmed.

The Conference adjourned at a quarter past twelve.

# WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 11TH.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. A. W. Nicolson.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Itinerancy was resumed.

The amendment to the amendment to the first clause of the Committee's Report, moved by the Rev. Mr. Sutherland was put to the Conference and adopted.

A question having been raised as to whether the amendment just passed required a three-fourths vote, as involving constitutional changes, and the President having ruled in

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the negative, an appeal was taken from the ruling of the chair, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart. The appeal was not sustained.

Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Committee's report were, by consent of Conference, dropped from the record.

Paragraph 7 was on motion amended so as to read : "The Annual Meeting of the Committee shall be held on the day and at the place which the President of the General Conference may appoint."

Paragraphs 8 and 9 were submitted; whereupon it was moved in amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That all communications from Presidents of Annual Conferences, in relation to transfers from their bounds, and from brethren who desire a transfer, shall be sent to the President of the General Conference not later than the thirty-first day of March in each year.

The General President shall notify the President of each Annual Conference of all proposed or desired transfers to or from his Conference not later than the fifteenth day of April in each year, and the President shall immediately notify any member of his Conference affected by such proposed transfer.

In case there be a Conference from or to which no transfer is proposed or desired in any given year, the representative from such Conference shall not be under obligation to attend the meeting of the Transfer Committee for that year.

The amendment was adopted.

Paragraph No. 10 was submitted, but on motion of Mr. W. E. Dawson, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green, the paragraph was expunged.

Paragraphs 11, 12, and 13 were successively submitted and adopted.

Further consideration of the report was deferred. [For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

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On motion, leave of absence was granted to Messrs. S. E. Mitchell, Noah Phelps, George A. Cox, and A. A. Stockton. Conference adjourned at forty minutes past five.

# WEDNESDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 11TH.

The Session of Conference for the Public Reception of Fraternal Delegates, was held in the St. James Street Church this evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

The President of the Conference occupied the chair.

The Delegates presented the Official Addresses of their respective Conferences to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, which were read and cordially received.

The Conference was addressed in eloquent and appropriate terms by the Rev. Samuel Coley, representative from the British Conference; the Rev. Dr. Upham, representative from the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States; the Rev. Dr. Kelly, representative from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and also by the Rev. Dr. Sargent, of Nashville, Tenn.

# THURSDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 12TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Charles Lavell, M.A.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary, and confirmed.

### INVITATIONS.

Resolutions from the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Dominion Methodist Church, Ottawa, inviting the General

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Conference to hold its next session in that City, was read, and laid on the table for consideration at a future time.

Resolutions from the Quarterly Official Meetings of the Halifax North and Halifax South Circuits, inviting the General Conference to hold its next session in that City, were read, and consideration thereof deferred.

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

Notices of motion for reference to Committees were pre sented as follows :----

By the Rev. W. H. Heartz, regarding Removal of Members. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. S. F. Heustis, in regard to Basis of Representation at next General Conference. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. McAllister, in regard to a change in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., in regard to appointment of Assistant Secretaries. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. Wakefield, regarding a change in the Marriage Ceremony. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., in regard to an additional Collection for General Conference Fund. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By the Rev. Dr. Williams, in regard to the appointment of a Court of Appeal. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. J. Lathern and Mr. W. E. Dawson, on behalf of the Charlottetown, P. E. I. Circuit, presented an invitatation to the Conference to hold its next session in that City. Consideration was deferred.

The Secretary read extracts from the Minutes of the Japan District Meeting, which were referred to the Committee on Discipline.

On motion, the notice of motion given by the Rev. E. Robson, in reference to Ordination, was taken from the Notice Paper and referred to the Committee on Discipline.

### REPORT ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

Judge Jones presented the Report of the Standing Committee on Church Property, appointed by the last General Conference, which, on motion, was adopted.

[For Report see Appendix.<sup>7</sup>

### REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The Rev. W. I. Shaw, LL.B., presented the Report of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Education.

COMMITTEE ON ADDRESS TO THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

The following were nominated by the President to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, in accordance with a resolution previously adopted :—

Rev. Dr. Ryerson.	Hon. J. Ferrier.
Judge Jones. Hon. S. L. Shannon.	Rev. Dr. Pickard.
Hon. S. L. Shannon.	Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A.

The nomination was accepted.

REPORT OF THE BOOK-ROOM AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Warring Kennedy submitted the Quadrennial Report of the Toronto Book-Room and Printing Establishment, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Publishing interests.

### REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Rev. Dr. Burwash submitted Report No. 1 from the Committee on Education.

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFFRENCE.

Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 were respectively submitted and adopted.

Recommendation 4, being amendments to the Constitution, was submitted.

It was moved in amendment to Art. VI., by the Rev. J. Learoyd, and seconded by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery,--

That instead of Educational Meetings we take up two collections.

It was moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. J. Wakefield, and seconded by the Rev. W. S. Griffin,---

That instead of Annual Educational Meetings, collections be taken up on two Sabbaths of each year, one for our Educational Institutions, and one for the Education of Probationers for our ministry; and that in addition to this, each Superintendent see that subscriptions be privately solicited from our friends for the same objects.

Further discussion was deferred.

### REPRESENTATIVE OF ENGLISH CONFERENCE.

The Rev. Samuel Coley, representative of the British Conference, took leave of the Conference in appropriate terms.

The following resolution was then moved by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, seconded by the Hon. James Ferrier, and adopted by a rising vote of the Conference,—

Resolved,—That this Conference desires to express its profound esteem and ardent love for the Rev. Samuel Coley, representative of the British Conference of the Parent Wesleyan Methodist Church, the great pleasure and profit we have derived from his able and truly Scriptural and Methodistic sermons and addresses, and the wise and practical suggestions which he has from time to time offered to this Conference; his kindness and various knowledge have both affected and edified us. We beg to express our cordial and unanimous thanks to our venerated friend for his valuable and instructive labours among us, and we offer our fervent

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prayers for Mr, and Mrs. Coley's safe return to their native land, and for their future happiness and welfare.

# REPORT OF WESLEYAN FEMALE COLLEGE.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Wesleyan Female College, Hamilton, be received, and referred to the Educational Committee and that it be read in Conference at a future session.

On motion, leave of absence was given to Mr. I. Longworth and the Hon. S. L. Shannon.

It was decided that when the Conference adjourns, it shall stand adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

# REPORT OF ONTARIO LADIES' COLLEGE.

The report of the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby, was received, and referred to the Committee on Education.

Conference adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve.

# THURSDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 12TH.

A Public Meeting on behalf of the Educational Society was held in the St. James Street Church this evening, at half-past seven o'clock. D. Allison, LL.D., occupied the chair, and able and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., the Rev. S. S. Nellies, D.D., LL.D., J. R. Inch, LL.D., the Rev. Samuel Coley, and the Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A. 1878.]

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 13TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. John S. Peach.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

Before proceeding to the Order of the Day, it was moved by J. Beatty, M.D., and seconded by Mr. Warring Kennedy,—

That the Order of Business be suspended, that opportunity may be given to take up motions of which notice has been given.

In amendment it was moved by Mr. David Plewes, and seconded by the Rev. A. Langford,—

That the report of the Committee on Class Meetings be the first Order of the Day.

The amendment was put and lost.

The original resolution was put and lost.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Conference then took up the Order of the Day, viz., the Report of the Committee on Education, and proceeded to consider the fourth sub-section of the sixth recommendation of the Committee relating to the Annual Educational Meetings, the amendment moved thereto by the Rev. J. Learoyd, and the amendment to the amendment moved by the Rev. J. Wakefield.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was put and lost.

The recommendation of the Committee (sub-section 6, recommendation 4) was put and carried.

The successive recommendations of the Committee were then read.

' In reference to the Board of Victoria College, as reported by the Committee, it was moved in amendment by Mr. Thomas Nixon, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,-

That the Report of the Committee be re-committed to amend the ame, by placing the name of Professor Burwash in place of some other.

This motion was, by permission of Conference, withdrawn. It was then moved by the Rev. A. Campbell, and seconded by the Rev. J. W. Sparling, B.D.,--

That the Report be re-committed to the Committee, with instructions that the name of Dr. Burwash be substituted for the name of some other person now on the Board.

The motion was put to the Conference and carried.

The successive recommendations of the Committee were adopted, and the Committee has leave to sit again.

# REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. E. Carson presented Report No. 1 of the Committee on Finance.

In amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Report, it was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by Dr. Beatty,-

That the lay delegates defray their own expenses.

Pending the discussion of the amendment, Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

# FRIDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 13TH.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Wm. Williams.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

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Vm. d. The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Finance was resumed.

The motion of Mr. Warring Kennedy, under discussion when Conference adjourned, was withdrawn by permission of the Conference.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That enquiry be made of each Treasurer of the General Conference Fund as to whether the Circuits in the Conference he represents have all reported and paid the sums collected.

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. W. E. Sanford, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard,—

That the several reports of the Treasurers of the several Conferences be referred to the Finance Committee to check, and report any delinquent Districts to this Conference.

The amendment was adopted.

The Report was referred back to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Report of the Committee on Education was again taken up. In reference to the Board of Victoria College, and the instructions given to the Committee by resolution passed at the forenoon session, the Committee reports the following resolution :--

Moved by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., seconded by the Rev. D. G. Sutherland, B.D., and

Resolved,—That, inasmuch as the Rev. Dr. Burwash earnestly requests that his name be left in abeyance for the present, the Report of the Committee be sustained; and, moreover, that should a vacancy occur during the interim of the General Conference, the Board be recommended to appoint Dr. Burwash to such vacancy.

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The Conference then confirmed the nomination of the Board of Victoria College, as presented by the Committee on Education in its Report.

# REPORT ON BOOK AND PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

The Rev. D. D. Currie submitted the Report of the Committee on Book and Publishing Interests. The Report, with a few amendments which are incorporated in the text, was adopted.

[For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Thos. Nixon, and seconded by Mr. John Francis,—

The motion was laid on the table for consideration at a future time.

On motion, leave of absence was given to Messrs. Thos. Hilliard, Donald Wallace, A. S. Fisher, John McCausland, Wm. M. Gray, W. E. Carson, and the Rev. W. S. Griffin.

It was resolved that the first Order of the Day for tomorrow shall be the election of Editors and Book Stewards.

The Conference adjourned at fifty minutes past five.

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Conference chair. Devotiona Huestis. The Minu On motion Before th by the Rev Rice,---That the 1 Rev. Mr. H up for consid In amendi and seconded That the ( of the Missie The amend The resolu The resolu notice, was th That in th Conference s debate. ELEC'

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### SATURDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 14TH.

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Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. G. O. Huestis.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to Dr. Beatty.

Before the Order of the Day was called, it was moved by the Rev S. F. Huestis, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That the motion, of which notice had been given by the Rev. Mr. Huestis, regarding the mode of election, be taken up for consideration.

In amendment it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That the Order of the Day be discharged, and the Report of the Missionary Committee be taken up for consideration. The amendment was put and lost.

The resolution was then put and carried.

The resolution, of which the Rev. Mr. Huestis had given notice, was then put and carried, as follows :----

That in the election of Editors and Book-Stewards, the Conference shall elect by nomination and ballot, without debate.

ELECTION OF BOOK-STEWARDS AND EDITORS.

The Conference proceeded to the election of a Book-Steward for the Western Section, when the following nominations were made :—

The Rev. Samuel Rose, D.D., was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Rice.

The Rev. William Briggs was nominated by Mr. Thos. Nixon.

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The Rev. James Gray was nominated by the Rev. Wm. Williams.

The Rev. John N. Lake was nominated by Mr. James Wilson.

While the ballots were being collected, the Delegates from the M. E. Church in Canada, the Rev. Dr. Jacques and the Rev. Wm. Brown, were introduced by the President, and their reception made the Order of the Day for eleven o'clock, a.m., on Monday next.

The ballots for Book-Steward being counted, it was found there was no election.

A second ballot was taken and counted, whereupon,

The Rev. WILLIAM BRIGGS was declared duly elected. Nominations for Editor of the Christian Guardian were

made as follows :----

The Rev. E. H. Dewart was nominated by the Rev. J. Learoyd.

The Rev. A. Sutherland was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson.

A ballot was taken, and

The Rev. E. H. DEWART was declared duly elected.

The Conference proceeded to elect an Editor for the Canadian Methodist Magazine, when the following nomina-

The Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., was nominated by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.

The Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., was nominated by the Rev. J. Learoyd.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Williams.

A ballot was taken, and

The Rev. W. H. WITHROW, M.A., was declared duly elected.

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The Con the Eastern made :---The Rev Rogers. The Rev Joseph Har The Rev Black. A ballot A second The Rev. The Conf Wesleyan, w The Rev. Dr. Pickard. The Rev. Alder Templ

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Conference proceeded to elect a Book-Steward for the Eastern Section, when the following nominations were made:—

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The Rev. W. H. Heartz was nominated by the Rev. J. Rogers.

The Rev. A. W. Nicolson was nominated by the Rev. Joseph Hart.

The Rev. J. G. Angwin was nominated by Mr. A. B. Black.

A ballot was taken, but there was no election.

A second ballot was taken, whereupon,

The Rev. W. H. HEARTZ was declared duly elected.

The Rev. T. Watson Smith was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Pickard.

The Rev. A. W. Nicolson was nominated by the Rev. R. Alder Temple.

The Rev. D. D. Currie was nominated by the Rev. Robert Duncan.

A ballot was taken but there was no election.

A second ballot was taken, whereupon,

The Rev. A. W. NICOLSON was declared duly elected.

COMMITTEE ON METHODIST GENERAL COUNCIL.

The Committee on Nominations reported the following as the Committee on the Methodist General Council :----

Re	v. Dr. Green.	D
**	Dr. Jeffers	Rev. Wm. Scott.
4.8	Dr. Nelles.	E. Coatsworth.
**	Dr. Carroll.	D. Plewes.
41	E. B. Ryckman, M.A.	Hon. J. Ferrier. Wm. F. Hall.
**	James Taylor.	Wm. F. Hall.
**	Dr. Pope.	D. Allison, LL D
**	G. S. Milligan, M.A.	J. R. Inch, LL.D.

The nomination was confirmed,

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# SABBATH-SCHOOL REPORT.

The Rev. Alfred Andrews submitted the Report of the Sabbath-school Committee, which was read clause by clause.

To the section relating to the appointment of a Sunday-School Agent, it was moved in amendment by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A.,—

That the matter of appointing a Sunday-school Agent be referred to the Sunday-school Board, which will be at liberty to take such action in the matter as they may deem expedient.

The previous question having been moved, the amendment was put and lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was then put and lost.

Further consideration of the report was deferred.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to Mr. R. C. Palmer and Capt. Sullivan.

The Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 14TH.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. James Gray.

The Minutes were read by the Secretary, and confirmed.

# NOTICES OF MOTION AND REFERENCE.

Notices of motion and reference were given and disposed of as follows :---

By the Rev. Dr. Ryerson,---

That the President of the General Conference shall devote his time, as far as possible, in visiting every part of the

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work ; that he several Annu sessions, shall President of e proceedings in Conference.

That the su the President Finance Comn possible.

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# **METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.**

work ; that he shall be considered a member of each of the several Annual Conferences, and, when present at their sessions, shall preside over their proceedings ; and that the President of each Annual Conference shall preside over its proceedings in the absence of the President of the General Conference.

That the subject and mode of providing for the support of the President of the General Conference be referred to the Finance Committee to report to this Conference as early as possible.

Laid on the table.

By the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., in regard to change of Conference Boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

By the Rev. Dr. Fowler,---

That the Minutes of the Board of Victoria College be laid on the table, and open to the examination of any member of the Conference who shall desire their perusal.

Laid on the table.

By the Rev. W. C. Henderson, M.A., in regard to Evangelistic Agency. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

By I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., in regard to Finances of Victoria College. Referred to the Committee on Education.

By the Rev. J. Hart. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. J. A. Rogers. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. S. F. Huestis,-

That all Connexional Notices shall be inserted in our periodicals free of charge. Laid on the table.

By the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

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By Mr. G. W. Webb,-

That he will, to-morrow or some day thereafter, introduce a resolution touching the numbers to form a quorum for the efficient working of Committees.

Laid on the table.

By Mr. James Wilson,---

That believing if the *Guardian* price were reduced to \$1 50 per year there would be a great increase in its circulation—more than sufficient to make up the loss—and in addition, the percentage formerly allowed to ministers ought in all fairness to be allowed to subscribers.

Laid on the table.

By Mr. William Latimer,---

That the Book Steward of the Western section of the Methodist Church of Canada be authorized and required, with as little delay as possible, to collect the outstanding debts now due to said establishment, and in future to require pay in advance for all books and publications sold by said Book Steward to any person or persons whatsoever, except when such goods are sold to merchants or retail dealers, when they may be allowed three months' credit if desired, but no longer; and should he infringe on this resolution and any loss result in consequence, that he be held responsible for the amount of such loss.

### REPORT OF THE SABBATH-SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Sabbath-schools was resumed.

To the clause of the Report regarding the formation of Juvenile Missionary Societies, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson,—

That every Superintendent of a Circuit be required to promote by every means in his power the augmentation of juvenile contributions to the funds of the Missionary Society, by forming Juvenile Missionary Societies, by Sabbath1878.]

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1. The Comm page 28, of Disc the event of the the President s General Conference death or disabilit then in that can ence shall call the of the President Special Committed the ministerial President, who s

# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

collections, the use of cards or Missionary boxes, or such other means as may be judged best in each locality.

The amendment was put and carried.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Evans, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A.,--

That the following clause be added to the Report, and be inserted after clause 3 of "General Principles," on page 98 of the Discipline, viz. : The Methodist Catechism shall be regularly used in all our Sabbath-schools.

The motion was adopted.

The paragraph of the Report relating to the appointment of a member of the Sabbath-school Board as a member of the Book Committee, was ruled out of order as affecting the constitution of the Book Committee.

The Report of the Committee on Sabbath-schools, as amended, was adopted.

[For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams, on behalf of the Committee on Discipline, submitted Report No. 4, as follows :---

1. The Committee recommend an addition to paragraph 9, page 28, of Discipline. After General Conference read,—In the event of the death or disability of the Vice-President, the President shall convene the Special Committee of the General Conference, who shall choose by ballot a Vice-President from among the ministerial members of the last General Conference; and in case it may happen that from death or disability there be no President or Vice-President, then in that case the Secretary of the last General Conference shall call together within one month after the death of the President or Vice-President the General Conference Special Committee, who shall choose by ballot from among the ministerial members of the last General Conference, a President, who shall immediately enter upon the office, and

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shall have the same power, privilege and authority as if he had been elected by theGeneral Conference.

2. First line, top of page 28. Instead of "two Assistant Secretaries," read, "The Secretary shall nominate such assistants as he may desire."

3. Recommend that on page 26, section 1, paragraph 2, instead of "one member in every eight members," read, "one member in every ten members," &c.

4. To follow second paragraph, page 31. Each Annual Conference shall have authority by a two-thirds vote of the ministers present, and voting, to locate any of its members before they shall have travelled fourteen years, provided that notice of such location has been given at the previous Conference, and such action of the Conference shall be final.

5. In reference to the Memorial from Kingston Circuit on the subject of lay delegation in the Annual Conferences, the Committee decline to recommend any change in the constitution of the Church.

6. The Committee recommend that the Discipline, p. 31, sixth line from the bottom, and which reads, "Each Annual Conference shall assemble in the month of June in each year," be so altered and amended as to read "Each Annual Conference shall assemble not earlier than the third Wednesday in May, nor later than the fourth Wednesday in June, in each year."

7. In reference to the Memorial on ministers absenting themselves from the District Meeting or Conference, the Committee are of opinion that the Discipline is sufficiently explicit.

8. On the overture on "Forbidden Diversions," the Committee report that the Discipline contains all that is at present necessary on the subject.

9. Page 36, section 5, Question 3. Answer be expunded, and the following be substituted :—All members of Conference and preachers on trial stationed in each District respectively, according to the Discipline; and, except, during the examination of character and other ministerial affairs,—which shall be the business of the first day,—the

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Recording Stewards of the several Circuits and Missions, and one other lay representative for each travelling minister or preacher appointed in addition to the Superintendent on each Circuit or Mission; but the lay members of the District Meetings immediately preceding the General Conference shall have been elected by ballot at the previous Quarterly Official Meetings of the Circuits.

To the recommendation of the Committee, in paragraph 3, regarding the number of members of the General Conference, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,—

That the next General Conference shall consist of two hundred and twenty members.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by Mr. W. E. Dawson, and seconded by Mr. J. N. Coates,—

That instead of the word "ten" the word "twelve" be substituted.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost. The amendment was put and lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee in regard to the locating of ministers, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A.,—

That "twenty years" be substituted for "fourteen years" in the recommendation.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. David Plewes,— That each Annual Conference shall have authority, by a two-thirds vote of the ministers present and voting, to locate any of its members at any time up to the close of the tenth year from the time of their reception on trial, and that such action of the Conference shall be final; provided that notice of each location be given at the preceding session of the Conference.

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

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### LAY DELEGATES.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. W. E. Dawson, and seconded by the Hon. W. G. Strong,—

That in the opinion of this Conference it is expedient that the Discipline be so amended as to allow the introduction of lay delegation into the Annual Conferences on the same basis as that which prevails in the General Conference.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. J. Lathern,-

That this resolution, involving such grave and important matters, be indefinitely postponed, so that ample time may be given to consider the same in all its bearings.

The amendment was carried.

That further consideration of the report of the Committee on Discipline was deferred.

On motion, leave of absence was granted Messrs. J. H. Smith and George B. Hume.

The Conference adjourned at five o'clock.

# MONDAY MORNING,

### SEPTEMBER 16TH.

[1878.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Wm. Williams.

The Minutes of the afternoon session of Saturday were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Rev. W. H. Heartz stated that after giving the subject careful and conscientious consideration, he did not feel at liberty to accept the position of Book Steward for the Eastern Section, to which he had been elected on Saturday. He requested the Conference to relieve him of the appointment.

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., gave notice of motion, which was referred to a Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. E. H. Dewart gave notice of motion to reconsider the resolution passed in reference to the *Christian Guardian*.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

Report No. 5 of Committee on Discipline was resumed, as follows :---

In amendment to clause No. 6, it was moved by the Rev. A. E. Russ, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Burwash,—

That the Annual Conferences be allowed to convene in September of each year.

The amendment was put and lost.

In amendment to clause No. 9 of the Report, it was moved by the Rev. Alexander Campbell, and seconded by the Rev. Charles Fish,—

That the expression "other ministerial affairs" be struck out of the resolution submitted by the Committee.

The discussion of the amendment was deferred to take up the Order of the Day for eleven o'clock, viz., the reception of the delegates from the M. E. Church in Canada.

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES FROM M. E. CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. Jacques and the Rev. W. Brown, fraternal delegates from the M. E. Church in Canada, were introduced by the President; the address of their Conference was read, and the delegates delivered addresses expressive of fraternal regards and affection, to which the President responded in behalf of the Conference.

The following resolution was then moved by the Rev. Wm. Williams, seconded by the Rev. James Gray, and adopted unanimously :---

That this Conference delights to welcome the fraternal delegates of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada; cordially concurs with the sentiments expressed in the address which has been presented, and heartily reciprocates the utterances of the delegates; recognizes with the utmost pleasure the many points on which we are one, and rejoices to labour side by side with this and other Methodist Churches in spreading Scriptural holiness throughout the land; and we trust that in the brightening future all divergences of sentiment may disappear, and the Methodism of our country ultimately become one.

# REPRESENTATIVE OF M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

The Rev. Dr. Kelly, delegate from the M. E. Church, South, took leave of the Conference in an affecting address, to which the President replied in behalf of the Conference; whereupon it was

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, and seconded by Judge Jones,—

That while we much regret that the distinguished representatives appointed by the M. E. Church, South, were not able to visit this General Conference, and favour us with their wise counsels, still we are under great obligations to the venerable bishops of the said Church for having sent us an able substitute in the person of our beloved brother, the Rev. Dr. Kelly. We have received him as a brother beloved, and have been much edified and benefitted by his able ministrations. We shall cherist a lively recollection of his visit to us, and earnestly pray for his future happiness, and for the success and continued triumphs of the powerful Church to which he belongs.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to the Rev. J. S. Clarke and Mr. W. E. Dawson.

The Conference adjourned at fifteen minutes past twelve o'clock.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON.

#### SEPTEMBER 16TH.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Carroll.

The Minutes of the forenoon session were read and confirmed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The report of the Committee on Discipline was resumed.

In amendment to the amendment proposed by the Rev. A. Campbell, it was moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland and seconded by the Rev. Wm. Hansford,—

That lay representatives shall be members of the District Meeting, except when Ministerial character is under discussion, and shall have the right to vote on all questions, except those touching the recommendation of Ministerial candidates and probationers and the superannuated and supernumerary ministers.

After a protracted discussion, the previous question was moved and carried.

The amendment to the amendment was then put and lost.

The amendment was also put and lost.

The original recommendation of the Committee on Discipline was then put and carried.

The remainder of the Committee's Report was then submitted, as follows :---

10. Page 38, expunge, "*Third*.—What ministers," &c., and let it form the first part of question twenty-first at the top of page 49.

Page 38. Alter "Fourth" to "Third," and harmonize the other questions therewith.

[1878.

11. Page 45. The following to follow paragraph 18:-19. No person shall be employed by a Chairman of a District, with a view to entering the ministry, who has not been a member of our Church one year, and a local preacher in good standing for six months.

12. Page 45. Remove all after "Ques," down to "Students' Fund," fifth line from the bottom, and let it follow after the questions in sixteenth, ending with "in the District."

13. Page 46. Remove questions included in "Fourteenth," and let them follow the questions in "Eighteenth," p. 48.

14. Page 46. *Fifteenth* to read, "What measures can be adopted for increasing the efficiency of our ministerial labours?" The rest of the question to be expunged.

15. Page 47, paragraph 3, to read, "Is sufficient time allotted in the arrangement for the quarterly visitation of the classes, and renewal of tickets, for the Minister or Preacher," &c.

16. Page 47. Twelfth line from the bottom to read "examination of character and ministerial affairs."

17. Page 48. To the last line the following additional question to be added :—" Can any measures be adopted for the promotion of the work of God in the District?"

18. Page 50. Second line from bottom, "for a Preacher," read "for a Local Preacher."

19. Page 53, Section VIII. Quarterly Official Meetings. Seventh line of first paragraph, for "who may be appointed by the Societies of the Circuit; the apportionment and scale to be fixed by the fourth quarterly meeting, which shall also specify the mode by which the vote shall be taken," read "who may have been appointed by the Societies of the

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Circuit ; the appointment, scale, time, and mode by which the vote shall be taken shall be arranged by the fourth Quarterly Official Meeting ; but such," &c.

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20. Page 53. Question 1, answer 1, add "and to receive the Quarterly Fnancial Report from the Steward of the Fund for the Poor."

21. Page 55, Section XI. Society Meetings. Second line in first paragraph for "profitable," read "practicable."

22. Page 54, Section IX. Question 2, "What are the of a duties Leaders' Meeting?" expunge "to meet at least once a month, and insert "to meet once a quarter, and oftener if necessary."

It was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., that the following be added to recommendation of the Committee regarding employment of local preachers by Chairmen of Districts,—

That no Chairman shall have authority to employ any person with a view to his reception into the active work, without the consent of the Annual Conference, or of the Special Committee thereof; and in no case shall any person be so employed who has been rejected by a Quarterly Meeting, District Meeting, or Annual Conference.

The resolution was adopted.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding probationers at college, resolutions were moved by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green, which were referred to the Committee on Education, pending which the recommendation of the Committee on Discipline was withdrawn.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Rice, seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., the Committee on Discipline was instructed to insert a clause requiring the Superintendents

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of Circuits to answer the question: "Have you regularly met the classes and renewed the tickets quarterly?"

The report of the Committee, as amended, was then adopted, and the Committee has leave to sit again.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

By the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., to reconsider recommendation of the Committee on Discipline regarding Leaders' Meetings. Laid on the table.

By the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., regarding Credentials of parties seeking membership from other Churches. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., regarding local Missionary Committee. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

The Secretary gave notice that to-morrow morning he would move that the order of business be suspended, and that the report of the Committee on Missions be taken up and considered.

The Rev. Dr. Jacques, delegate from the M. E. Church in Canada, took leave of the Conference with appropriate remarks.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Wm. Beatty, W. H. Austin, John Wilson, and James Bissell.

Mr. G. D. Platt gave notice that he will move to-morrow morning that during the remainder of this General Conference, the time allowed to each speaker in debate be limited to five minutes, unless by special permission of the Conference.

The Rev. J. S. Coffin gave notice of motion regarding membership of Quarterly Official Boards. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONEERENCE.

### TUESDAY MORNING,

### SEPTEMBER 17TH.

Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Kennedy Creighton.

The Minutes of the afternoon session of the preceding day were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Hon. W. G. Strong submitted Report No. 2 of the Finance Committee.

The report was, on motion, adopted.

[For report as adopted, see Appendix.]

The motion, of which notice had been given at the preceding session by Mr. G. D. Platt, to amend the Rules of Order, by restricting speeches of members of Conference to five minutes, was put and lost.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The Rev. Wm. Hansford submitted Report No. 1 of the Committee on Missions. The report was received for consideration, and taken up clause by clause.

To the recommendation of the Committee regarding a Ladies' Missionary Society, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. L. N. Beaudry, and seconded by the Hon. J. Ferrier,—

That the portion of the Committee's report referring to Bro. Beaudry's memorial be re-committed for further consideration.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. W. Tindall, and seconded by Mr. Warring Kennedy,-

That the matter of the organization of a Ladies' Auxiliary Society be left in the hands of the Central Board, with authority to organize the said society, if, in their judgment, the financial condition of the Church should warrant such a step during the present quadrennium.

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the establishment of new Missions, it was moved by the Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. R. Duncan,—

That no new Missions shall be established unless by a vote of the Conference in which the Mission is proposed.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. W. Nicolson, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green,—

That no new Mission shall be opened for the future without permission of an Annual Conference, and then only when notice of motion has previously been given.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was then put, and carried by a threefourths vote.

The recommendation of the Committee regarding Missions formed by dividing independent Circuits, was withdrawn, as provided for by amendment just adopted.

In amendment to the recommendation by the Committee regarding the allocation of the debt among the Conferences, it was moved by the Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A.,—

That it is not expedient to depart from the principle heretofore recognized for the maintenance of our Missions by adopting what seems to be direct taxation upon our several Districts; but that this Conference is of opinion that it is best sti our Church, a our people.

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

it is best still to appeal urgently to the Congregations of our Church, and depend upon the voluntary contributions of our people.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Campbell, and seconded by the Rev. E. A. Stafford,—

That the sam of \$16,000 be apportioned by the Missionary Board to the several Annual Conferences, and by their Missionary Committees to the Circuits and Missions within their bounds, and that special appeals be made at all our Missionary Meetings for the payment of the same.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment to the amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. William Hansford,—

That the recommendation of the Committee be amended by omitting the words "pro rata," and also the words "before the 31st Decem! er, 1878," and add the words "towards the liquidation of the debt."

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

The further consideration of the Report was deferred.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Notices of motion were given as follows, and laid on the table :---

By the Rev. Dr. Rice,---

That the quorum of the Conference shall be changed from a majority of the whole to fifty members.

By the Rev. Dr. Potts,—

That in view of the embarrassed state of the General Conference Fund, fraternal letters be sent to the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in England, the General Conferences of the M. E. Churches North and South, and the M. E. Church in Canada, instead of representatives.

The Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

# TUESDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 17TH.

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Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The Vice-President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Hon. W. G. Strong.

The Minutes of the forenoon session were read and confirmed.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Missions was resumed.

To the recommendation of the Committee regarding publication of Missionary Report, it was moved in amendment by Mr. W. Latimer,—

That the Annual Report of the Missionary Society do contain the missionary notices as heretofore; and that,' with a view of reducing the size and expense thereof, it do not contain the names of any subscribers for a less sum than four dollars.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. P. Addison and seconded by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery,—

That we have one General Report, and that a summary of the state of the work be given of each department and that all the reports from individual sources be dispensed with, and that the names of subscribers of two dollars and upwards be inserted.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was also lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was then adopted.

The recommendation of the Committee to discontinue the publication of the *Missionary Notices* was adopted.

To the recommendation by the Committee regarding the publication of correspondence on missionary subjects, it was

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ing the it was moved in amendment by the Rev. H. Sprague, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A.,-

That all communications from the Mission Districts intended for publication in the organs of the Church, shall be first examined and approved by the Missionary Secretary.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Mr. E. Coatsworth,—

That the clause relating to the emendation of Missionary correspondence be omitted, and the following substituted :---That the Missionary authorities prepare and send to Missionaries, by circular, particular instructions and suggestions as to the matter and spirit of their reports and letters respecting their Mission fields.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was put and carried.

To the recommendation of the Committee regarding a missionary publication for Sunday-schools, it was moved in amendmet by the Rev. A. Andrews and seconded by Mr. W. Latimer,--

That the Book Committee be requested to allow the Missionary Secretaries to occupy one page of the Sunday School Advocate for illustrated articles bearing on our Mission work.

The amendment was adopted.

The recommendation of the Committee regarding the appointment of Missionary Secretaries was taken up for consideration, and its adoption moved by the Rev. Dr. Young, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson,—

In amendment, it was moved by the Mr. D. Plewes and seconded by Mr. S. Washington,-

That one Missionary Secretary only be elected.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy and seconded by the Rev. J. Learoyd,— That there be one Missionary Secretary, and that the Central Board have authority to secure, for the Mission

office, whatever assistance in their judgment the necessities of the work may demand.

On motion, it was resolved that when the Conference adjourns, it stand adjourned until half-past seven o'clock.

Pending further discussion, the Conference adjourned at half-past five.

### TUESDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 17TH.

1878.

Conference met at half-past seven o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Williams.

The Minutes of the afternoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Missions was resumed.

The amendment to the amendment, moved at the previous session by Mr. Warring Kennedy, was put and lost.

It was then further moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. H. F. Bland, and seconded by the Rev. W. I. Shaw, LL.B.,—

That there shall be only one Secretary, who shall have an efficient assistant at a salary of not more than \$1,200 a year.

This amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment, moved at the previous meeting by Mr. D. Plewes, was then put and carried.

Mr. S. D. Waddy, M.P., of Great Britain, was introduced by the President, and briefly addressed the Conference.

The election of the Missionary Secretary, and of a Book Steward for the Eastern Section, was made the order of the day for Wednesday at eleven o'clock.

Conference adjourned at fifteen minutes past ten.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 18TH.

Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Charles Fish.

The Minutes of the evening session of the preceding day were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

### NOTICES OF REFERENCE.

Notices of Motions, to be referred to Committees, were given as follows :---

By the Rev. James McAlister, regarding Election of Alternates. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. James Gray. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

By the Rev. Dr. Fowler. Referred to Committee on Class Meetings.

By the Rev. Dr. Young. Referred to Committee on Discipline.

The President gave notice that the minutes of the Board of Victoria College had been laid on the table and were accessible to all members of the Conference.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The report of the Committee on Missions was again taken up for consideration.

In regard to the recommendation of the Committee respecting grants for rent, it was moved by the Rev. A. Campbell and seconded by the Rev. W. Scott,—

That the Annual Conference Missionary Committee be authorized to give such notice.

The amendment was adopted.

As an addition to the recommendation of the Committee respecting the constitution of the Central Missionary Board, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. W. Latimer,—-

That the following be added to the clause defining the composition of the Central Board :—All appropriations to be made by this Board, except such as are referred to the Committee of Finance and Consultation.

The motion was not sustained.

To recommendation of the Committee respecting the composition of the Committee of Finance and Consultation, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. J. G. Laird, and seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A.,—

That "Central Board" be substituted for "General Conference" as the authority which is to appoint the Committee of Finance and Consultation.

The amendment was put and carried.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee respecting Memorial to the House of Commons, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That the matter of the memorial to the House of Commons be referred to the Committee of Finance and Consultation, to take such steps as may be necessary in the case.

The amendment was put and carried.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the Bermuda District, it was moved by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, and seconded by the Rev. W. C. Brown,—

That Bermuda be a Mission District connected with the Nova Scotia Conference.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. James Gray, and seconded by D. Alison, LL.D.,—

That the Committee's recommendation do lie on the table till the report from the Committee on Boundaries, bearing on the general subject, be received.

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

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In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the Japan Mission, the Rev. James Gray moved the resolution of which he had given notice, as follows :- -

Whereas, the Methodist Church of Canada, and the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, have both established Missions in Japan; and Whereas we believe that Methodism is essentially one in every part of the world, and the setting up of rival Methodist altars in heathen lands while we are endeavouring to unite the various sections of the Church at home, is inconsistent and injurious; and Whereas we believe that by diminishing the number of Methodist organizations we would greatly subserve the interests of the cause of God, by not only increasing its efficiency, but also reducing the expenses, and giving a practical illustration of our desire for the fulfilment of the Saviour's prayer "that they all may be one, as Thou Father art in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in us, and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me." Therefore,—

Resolved that the question as to whether it is desirable or practicable to amalgamate the two bodies, be submitted to the Missionary Committees of the several Annual Conferences for their consideration, with instructions to such Committees to report after their next annual meetings, to the Central Board of Missions, their opinion on this question, and that the Central Board, if they deem it advisable, shall be empowered to open a communication with the Missionary authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, with a view to such amalgamation. The whole case to be reported by the Central Board to the next General Conference.

The amendment was put and lost, and the recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

### RESIGNATION OF THE REV. DR. WOOD.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson submitted the Report of a Committee appointed to prepare resolutions relative to the retirement of the Rev. Enoch Wood, D.D., from the office

1878.

of Missionary Secretary, as intimated in the following letter :---

## To the Rev. President and Members of the General Conference and the Central Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada :---

DEAR BRETHREN,—After more than fifty-two years of uninterrupted connection with Missionary work, in the West Indies, New Brunswick, and Upper Canada, I have resolved at the expiration of the present Conference year to ask for such a change of relationship as will liberate me from the duties and responsibilities of one of the Secretaries of the Missionary Society, to which office, by your favour, I was appointed.

With grateful remembrances of the distinctions and kindnesses received from the members of the Conferences, and the Methodist Church of Canada, lay and ministerial, for the past thirty-one years.

> I am, Dear Brethren, Faithfully your obedient servant,

In Christ the Lord,

ENOCH WOOD.

On the foregoing, the Committee reported as follows :---

The Committee to whom the Rev. Dr. Wood's letter, of the 31st ult., tendering his resignation of the office of Secretary of the Missionary Society, was referred, with instructions to draft and report resolutions suitable for the occasion, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following by the Conference, viz. :—

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and seconded by the Hon. J. Ferrier,—

1. That in accepting the Rev. Dr. Wood's resignation of the office of Missionary Secretary, to take effect at the end of this Conference year, this Conference desires to

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

express its profound esteem for his character and virtues, its grateful sense of his fervent and successful labours in the ministry for more than half a century, the faithfulness and ability with which he discharged the duties of General Superintendent of Missions from 1847 to 1868, and afterwards those of General Missionary Secretary from that time to the present, besides his having filled with distinguished ability for ten years the office of President of the Canadian Conference-now constituting the Toronto, London, and Montreal Conferences; and this Conference earnestly prays that our honoured and beloved brother may, during the evening of his long and laborious life, enjoy the richest consolations of the gospel which he has preached,-ever living in the affectionate esteem and love of our whole Church, in anticipation of the rest which remains for the people of God, and the glorious reward promised to the good and faithful servant.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.,—

2. That this Conference, in order that the Society may continue to enjoy the benefit of the wise counsels which, from his long experience in conducting its affairs, he must be specially qualified to give, respectfully requests the Rev. Dr. Wood, on his retirement from the position of Senior Secretary, to assume the relation of Honorary Secretary to our Missionary Society, and, as such, to attend, so far as he can make it convenient to himself to do so, the meetings of the Committee of Finance and Consultation and of the Central Board, and to take part in all their deliberations.

3. That Dr. Wood's letter and the above resolutions be entered and published in the Journal of this Conference.

The preceding resolutions were successively put to the Conference and unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF MISSIONARY SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

The Conference proceeded to the election of the Secretary of the Missionary Society, whereupon —

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The Rev. Dr. Potts nominated the Rev. Alexander Sutherland for that office. No other nomination having been made, the Rev. Mr. Sutherland was declared elected by acclamation.

The Rev. Dr. Jeffers then nominated the Rev. A. Sutherland as Clerical Treasurer and Mr. John Macdonald, as Lay Treasurer of the Missionary Society. No other nominations having been made, these gentlemen were declared elected by acclamation.

# ELECTION OF BOOK-STEWARD, EASTERN SECTION.

The Rev. W. H. Heartz having tendered to the Conference his resignation of the office of Book-Steward, to which he had previously been elected, and the same having been accepted,

The Conference proceeded to elect a Book-Steward for the Eastern Section, in the place of the Rev. W. H. Heartz, resigned.

Nominations were made as follows :----

The Rev. Dr. Pickard was nominated by the Rev. Joseph Hart.

The Rev. S. F. Huestis was nominated by the Rev. R. Alder Temple.

The Rev. J. G. Angwin was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Pickard.

A ballot was taken, and the Rev. HUMPHREY PICKARD, D.D., was declared duly elected.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE M. E. CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. Upham, delegate from the M. E. Church of the United States, took leave of the Conference in appropiate terms,—

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Whereupon, the following resolution was moved by the Rev. Dr. Williams, seconded by Judge Jones, and unanimously adopted :---

Resolved,—That we have enjoyed with unmitigated satisfaction the visit to this General Conference of the distinguished Representative of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, the Rev. Dr. Upham. That we have listened with great pleasure to his words of love and fraternal sympathy, and most heartily reciprocate them. We have been edified by his able and instructive pulpit ministrations; and rejoice in the great prosperity at home, and the success abroad, which it has pleased our common Saviour to grant to the Great Church he has so ably repre sented; and in his departure from us we would place on record our appreciation of his personal character, and of the manner in which he has fulfilled his mission to us; and we devoutly implore for him a safe return to his home and field of labour.

# ELECTION OF EDITOR OF THE "WESLEYAN."

The Rev. A. W. Nicolson tendered to the Conference his resignation of the office of Editor of the *Wesleyan*, to which he had been previously elected, and the same was accepted.

The Conference then proceeded to elect an Editor of the Wesleyan, in place of the Rev. A. W. Nicolson, resigned.

Nominations were made as follows :-----

The Rev. T. Watson Smith was nominated by the Rev. Howard Sprague, M.A.

The Rev. D. D. Currie was nominated by the Rev. R. Duncan.

A ballot was taken, and the Rev. D. D. CURRIE was declared duly elected.

The Secretary read the fraternal address of the Australasian General Conference.

[For address, see Appendix.] 6\*

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Resolved,—That the Nominating Committee shall nominate Committees to prepare answers to the addresses of other Conferences.

On motion, it was

Resolved,—That the Conference do adjourn, to enable the representatives of the Annual Conferences to elect members of the Book Committee.

And the Conference adjourned accordingly at forty-five minutes past eleven.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

SEPTEMBER 18TH.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. John Hunt.

The Minutes of the morning session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The motion of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, regarding the President of the General Conference, was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson gave notice of the following motion,-

I give notice that I will on to-morrow move that the Missionary Board at Toronto be authorized to correspond with the Missionary Board of the M. E. Church at New York, with a view of securing unity of action and labour as far as possible in the Methodist Missionary work in Japan.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Potts, seconded by the Rev. A. Sutherland,—

That the Rev. Dr. Rose, the Hon. James Ferrier, James R. Inch, LL.D., and Mr. Warring Kennedy be appointed a standing Committee on Finance, and that they be in-

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James pointed be instructed to negotiate a loan of four thousand dollars, to meet the expenses incurred in connection with the General Conference.

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The motion was adopted.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Itinerancy was resumed.

In amendment to paragraph 13 of Committee's report, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson and seconded by the Rev. Joseph Hart,—

That any minister transferred shall continue a member of the Conference from which he is transferred till the close of his Conference session. Nevertheless the Stationing Committee of the Conference to which he is transferred shall have authority to station him at the same time when the ministers and preachers of that Conference are stationed by such Committee.

In amendment to the amendment it was moved by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson,—

That the Transfer Committee shall have authority to fix the date at which the transfer shall take effect.

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

As an addition to the Report of the Committee on Itinerancy, it was moved by the Rev. Thomas S. Keough, and seconded by the Rev. Alexander Sutherland,—

That the Secretary of the Transfer Committee shall, immediately after the rising of the Committee, report to the Secretary of each Annual Conference affected, all transfers to and from such Conference, and the date at which such transfers shall take effect.

The motion was adopted.

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The portion of the Report respecting Transfers was, on motion of the Rev. J. Lathern, seconded by the Rev. J. G. Angwin, re-committed for further consideration.

To recommendation of the Committee respecting the Composition of the Stationing Committee, it was moved in amendment by the Rev. R. Fowler, M.D., and seconded by Dr. Norris,—

That the Constitution of the Stationing Committee be so changed as to make this Committee consist of one representative from each District elected by the joint vote of the lay and ministeral members at the Annual District Meeting.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by Mr. S. S. Junkin, and seconded by Mr. W. Latimer,—

That there be only one member of the Stationing Committee for each District, who shall be Chairman thereof, who shall be elected by the ministers of each District at the close of the Conference.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was put and lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was then put and adopted.

In amendment to the report of the Committee respecting Memorials asking for extension of term of Pastoral Service the Rev. E. A. Stafford moved,—

To add to Article 2 on page 31 of the Discipline, after the words "Stationing Committee," the following :—"But in exceptional cases any Annual Conference shall have power by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting thereon, to direct the Stationing Committee to extend a minister's term of service beyond three years." Also, to Article 5, on page 34, after the words "same circuit," add, "unless by a dispensation of the Annual Conference."

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. G. Richardson, and seconded by the Rev. A. E. Russ, M.A.,—

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

That the Stationing Committee shall have power to station a minister a fourth year, when the Official Board shall request such extension of term.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was put and lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was then adopted.

The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock, to meet again at half-past seven.

# WEDNESDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 18TH.

The Conference met at half-past seven o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. E. A. Stafford.

The Minutes of the afternoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson submitted the Report of the Committee on the Superannuation Fund, and the Report of the Superannuation Fund Board. The latter was, on motion, adopted.

To the recommendation of the Committee regarding the per centage for investment, &c.,-

It was no ed in amendment by the Rev. T. G. Williams, and seconded by the Rev. Wm. Hansford,---

That the annual subscription of all our ministers and preachers in the active work shall not be less than ten dollars per year, and that five per cent. of the regular income of the fund shall form a first charge on the current income of each year, and be added annually to the invested capital, only when ten-twelfths of the claim of each claimant has been paid.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. T. S. Keough, and seconded by the Rev. Chas. Fish,—

That five per cent. for investment be taken from that part only of the income which comes from ministers' subscriptions.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

In further amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. S. Bond,—

That the scale of payments and the endowment be continued as now.

A vote was taken, and Mr. Bond's amendment was adopted.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding a grant towards allowance of Superannuated Missionaries, it was moved by the Rev. H. Sprague, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. S. F. Huestis,—

"Whereas the Superannuation Fund, though nominally a fund of the Methodist Church of Canada, is in reality a fund of three Conferences only, while the Missionary Fund is a fund to which the whole Church contributes; therefore *Resolved*,—That in the interests of the Mission Fund and the work of our Church, it is expedient that the grant made by the Central Missionary Board to the Superannuation Fund during the past four years, be not continued beyond the present time."

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Nelles, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Nixon,—

That the matter now under discussion be referred to a Committee, to be named by the Chair, for consideration and adjustment, and to report to this Conference.

Pending discussion, the Conference adjourned at half-past ten o'clock.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# THURSDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 19TH.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. J. Mc-Alister.

The Minutes of the evening session of the preceding day were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the Report naming Committees to prepare fraternal addresses to other Conferences, as follows :

To the British Conference :- The Rev. E. Ryerson, D.D., LL.D., the Rev. H. Pickard, D.D., the Hon. J. Ferrier.

M. E. Church of the United States :- The Rev. E. H. Dewart, the Rev. G. H. Davis, J. R. Inch, LL.D.

M. E. Church, South :- The Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., the Rev. Joseph Hart, Mr. Warring Kennedy.

Australasian Conference:—The Rev. N. Burwash, S.T.D., the Rev. James Graham, and Mr. J. B. Morrow.

M. E. Church in Canada :- The Rev. James Gray, and the Rev. John Shaw

On motion, the nominations were confirmed.

A communication from members of the Methodist Church in Toronto, in regard to the election of Book-Steward, was read, and referred to the Committee on Memorials.

The Rev. R. Duncan gave notice of motion, which was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

The motion of Mr. Thomas Nixon, of which notice had been given, regarding a Conference in Manitoba, was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., gave notice of the following motion:

That Superannuated ministers shall not have a claim upon the Superannuated Ministers Fund for those years during which they shall have been employed and paid by Societies, Corporations, or bodies not paying annually into that fund.

# REPORT OF SUPERANNUATION FUND COMMITTEE.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Superannuation Fund was resumed.

The amendment to the amendment proposed by the Rev. Dr. Nelles was put and carried, and the President, in accordance therewith, named the following Committee :—

		Green,	Rev. S. F. Huestis,
"	Dr.	Sanderson,	" Dr. Rice,
"	Dr.	Pickard,	

to report to this Conference.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the powers of the Superannuation Fund Board,

It was moved by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. James Gray,-

That the words "Their action shall be final" be struck out.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Green,

That the action of the Board be final unless reversed by the Court of Appeal.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was then put and carried.

To the recommendation of the Committee regarding claimants on the Fund, the resolution of which notice had been given by I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., was moved as an amendment by him, and seconded by Mr. E. Coatsworth.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by D. Allison, LL.D.,-

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That the claims of a minister on the Superannuation Fund shall not be prejudiced by his having been engaged in the service of any Department, Society, or Corporation, within or without the Church, provided such service is rendered by the appointment, or with the consent of, his Conference.

The amendment was put and carried.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Potts, and seconded by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery,---

That in case of death or other disqualification of any member of the Superannuation Board during the present quadrennium, the Board is authorized to fill up the said vacancy from the sections affected by such death or disqualification.

The motion was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson, as an addition to the Report of the Committee,—

That this Conference earnestly recommends the members and friends of the Church to make bequests to the Superannuation Fund for permanent endowment, and to use the following language in making such bequests :---

I give and bequeath to the Superannuation Fund of the Methodist Church of Canada ——— dollars, to be paid to the Treasurers of the said Fund, out of my personal estate, immediately after my death.

The motion was adopted.

The Report of the Committee, as amended, was then adopted.

[For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

It was moved by the Hon. James Ferrier, and seconded by the Rev. J. Lathern,---

That the Hymn-Book Committee's Report be made the Order of the Day for the commencement of the afternoon session.

The motion was adopted.

# REPORT OF COMMUTATION INVESTMENT FUND.

The Report of the Treasurers of the Commutation Fund was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Green, Treasurer, and on motion of the Rev. Dr. Green, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Fowler, the Report was adopted.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

# REPORT OF CONTINGENT FUND COMMITTEE.

The Rev. T. S. Keough submitted the Report of the Contingent Fund Committee.

On motion, the Report, as a whole, was adopted.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

On motion of the Rev. W. Scott, it was

Resolved,—That the first subject to be considered after the Report of the Hymn-Book Committee be that part of the Report of the Committee on Education referring to the Stanstead Wesleyan College.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S FUND.

The Rev. S. Bond submitted the Report of the Committee on the Children's Fund.

A communication was read from the Directors of the Montreal Horticultural Society, inviting the Conference, as a body, to visit their Exhibition, now open, free from all expense. The Secretary was instructed to return an answer accepting the invitation for twelve o'clock to-day.

### On motion, it was

Resolved,—That the Report of the Committee on Class Meetings be the first order of the day for to-morrow.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sanderson,-

That the Revs. Dr. Green, Wm. Briggs, J. Gray, John Macdonald, Esq., and Joseph Lister, Esq., be the Commutation Fund Investment Committee.

The motion was adopted.

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

On motion of the Rev. James Gray, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, it was

Resolved,—That the name of the Fund of the General Conference be "The General Conference Fund."

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Children's Fund was taken up.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding the capitation tax, it was moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland,—

That all young persons under fifteen years of age shall be exempt from the operation of the Children's Fund Tax.

The amendment was not sustained.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding children on Mission Districts, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A.,—

That the words "other Foreign and Missionary Districts" be struck out.

The amendment was adopted.

The Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

# THURSDAY AFTERNOON,

### SEPTEMBER 19TH.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

The devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. William Scott.

The Minutes of the preceding session were read and confirmed.

### REPORT OF CHILDREN'S FUND COMMITTEE.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Children's Fund was resumed.

In amendment to the recommendation of the Committee regarding children of former New Connexion ministers, it was moved by the Rev. J. C. Slater, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That the children of ministers of the late New Connexion Church, born while their fathers were probationers, have claims on the fund by virtue of the special arrangement referred to on page 118 of Discipline of 1874, clause 5, relating to Children's Fund; and as it is ascertained that before the Union they received the same in amount and duration as regular claimants, they shall continue to do so.

The discussion of the amendment was deferred to allow consultation of records.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson,—

That the quorum of the Conference shall be changed from a majority of the whole to fifty members.

The motion was adopted by a three-fourths vote.

### REPORT OF THE HYMN-BOOK COMMITTEE.

The consideration of the Report of the Hymn-book Committee was resumed.

In amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Report, which had been moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland and seconded by the Rev. J. Lathern, it was moved by the Rev. R. Fowler, M.D., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Potts,—

That the hymns in the present collection numbered from 1 to 539, and classified under the head of "A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists. By the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., sometime Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford," be retained unchanged in order and expression in the new Hymn-book. 1878.

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#### 1878. METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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It was moved in amendment to the amendment by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., seconded by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.,-

That the Report of the Hymn-Book Committee, appointed by the last General Conference, be adopted, and that the Hymn-Book Committee be re-appointed and authorized to complete and publish the Hymn-Book within two years.

Pending discussion, the Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock, to meet again at half-past seven.

# THURSDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 19TH.

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The Conference met at half-past seven o'clock. The Vice-President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Young.

The Minutes of the afternoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Report of the Committee on the Children's Fund was again taken up for consideration, and adopted. [For Report, see Appendix.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS.

The Report of the Committee on Memorials was submitted by the Rev. J. G. Laird, and, on motion, the same was adopted.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The Committee on Public Worship submitted its Report through the Rev. W. S. Blackstock, and, on motion, the Report was adopted.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

### REPORT ON HYMN-BOOK.

The discussion on the Report of the Hymn-book Committee was resumed.

The amendment to the amendment, moved by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., was put and carried.

On motion of the Rev. J. Hart, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Stewart, D. Allison, LL.D., was appointed on the Hymn-Book Committee, in place of the late Judge Wilmot.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Nelles, seconded by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery, the Rev. Dr. Jeffers was added to the Hymn-Book Committee.

On motion, leave of absence was given to Messrs. R. A. Gibson, Thomas McKittrick, and John Francis.

The Conference adjourned at ten o'clock.

### FRIDAY MORNING,

#### SEPTEMBER 20TH.

1878.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. John Bredin.

The Minutes of the evening session of the preceding day were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

On motion, the resolution of which notice had been given by Mr. Warring Kennedy, in reference to a Day of Thanksgiving, was referred to the Committee on Nominations, to appoint the Committee provided for by such resolution. 1878.]

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The motion, of which notice had been given by Mr. Warring Kennedy, regarding Codification of Rules, was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

# SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Rev. Dr. Rice submitted a supplementary Report of the Committee on Education, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green,—

That as the purposes of the Educational Society contemplated the establishment of an Educational Institution in Manitoba, and for French work in Quebec, the Advisory Committee of the Society be empowered to make such appropriation as may be necessary, according to their claims.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock,---

That the Rev. Dr. Rice's resolution do lie on the table until that part of the Report of the Educational Committee which refers to Stanstead Wesleyan College has been considered.

The amendment was put and lost.

The original resolution was then put and carried.

# REPORT ON CLASS-MEETINGS.

The Rev. R. Alder Temple submitted the Report of the Committee on Class-Meetings, and its adoption was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. William Latimer.

In amendment it was moved by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., and seconded by Mr. A. McRoberts,—

That, inasmuch as the class meeting is not specifically named in Section 6, page 12 of the Discipline, in the summary of ordinances attendance upon which is expected of all who desire to continue in our Church; and, moreover, inasmuch as it is found impracticable to proceed to the

extreme act of excluding from membership for non-attendance upon class-meeting, as enjoined on page 22, answers 1 and 2, in the Discipline, without severing from their chosen and cherished spiritual home, and sacrificing to the Methodist Church, many whose constitutional and conscientious difficulties preclude such attendance, but whose Christian character, as evidenced by a godly conversation and conduct, and by the use of the other means of grace, is such as to establish beyond question their eligibility for membership in the Church of Christ, by the test significantly pronounced by our Lord Himself: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Be it therefore enacted, That question 3, and answers 1 and 2, pages 21 and 22, be left out of the revised edition of the Discipline; and thus attendance upon class-meeting be regarded, as it is with the prayer-meeting, the expression of a desire to "flee from the wrath to come," and to "perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord," rather than the evidence of meetness for connection and communion with the Church of God.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland, and seconded by the Hon. James Ferrier,—

1. That the class-meeting shall be maintained as an Institution of the Church, and recommended as a Christian privilege, but not enforced as a test of membership.

2. That conformity to our General Rules shall be the condition of Church membership, and that questions 3 and 4, on pages 21 and 22, relating to the class-meeting, shall be expunged.

3. That every members of the Church, whether he meet in class or not, shall be connected with some Leader, who shall be responsible for his moral and spiritual oversight.

Pending discussion, the Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock.

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METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# FRIDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 20TH.

The Conference met at three o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A.

The Minutes of the forenoon session were read by the Assistant Secretary and confirmed.

It was moved by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, and seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A.,-

That the motion of the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., regarding the Christian Guardian, be reconsidered.

The motion was adopted.

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It was then moved by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, and seconded by the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A.,-

That ministers shall pay one dollar per annum for the Christian Guardian, and that the matter of premiums be left to the Book Committee.

In amendment, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Green,-

That the Guardian be sent to ministers free, and that the matter of premiums be left to the Book Committee.

The amendment was put and lost.

The resolution was put and carried.

It was moved by the Rev. D. D. Currie, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pickard,-

That ministers pay one dollar for the Wesleyan, and that the matter of premiums be left to the Book Committee. The motion was adopted.

The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., on behalf of the Nominating Committee, submitted the names of a Committee to consider the question of a day of thanksgiving, as follows :----

Rev. Dr. Rose.

\*\*

Dr. Evans.

William Scott. 11

Rev. James Taylor. Joseph Hart. 11 James Dove.

The Report of the Committee on Class-meetings was called. Further discussion was deferred till the evening session.

The Report of the Committee on Missions, nominating the members of the Central Board for the next four years, was submitted by the Secretary, and, on motion, laid on the table.

The following return of the members of the Book Committee, as elected by ballot by the several Annual Conference delegations, was reported, and adopted :----

### I. TORONTO CONFERENCE.

Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.

Dr. Young. \*\*

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Dr. Potts. ..

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Warring Kennedy. E. Coatsworth. James Gooderham. Richard Brown.

Dennis Moore.

A. McRoberts.

Judge Jones.

S. S. Junkin.

N. R. Willoughby, M.A. J. E. Betts.

#### **II. LONDON CONFERENCE.**

Rev. Dr. Rice.

- Dr. Williams. "
- Dr. Sanderson. ...
- David Savage. ...

E. B. Ryckman, M.A. ...

### III. MONTREAL CONFERENCE.

- Rev. J. Elliott, D.D.
  - W. Hansford. ..
  - E. A. Stafford. 11
  - W. Scott. ...

Hon. J. Ferrier. Sheriff Patrick. M. Lavell, M.D.

J. B. Morrow.

D. Allison, LL.D.

### IV. NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

Rev. R. A. Temple.

" T. W. Smith.

J. McMurray. 11

V. NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE.

Rev. Joseph Hart.

- Henry Pope, D.D. 11
  - James R. Inch, LL.D.

Rev. Robert Duncan. " John Lathern.

### VI. NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

Rev. James Dove.

Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A.

The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock, to meet at half-past seven.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# FRIDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 20TH.

The Conference met at half-past seven o'clock. The Vice-President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Potts.

The Minutes of the afternoon session were read and confirmed.

It was moved by the Rev. George Douglas, LL.D., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Carroll,---

That inasmuch as the Committee on Finance has dissolved, and certain small bills remain unpaid, the Treasurer, the Rev. Dr. Rose, is hereby empowered to settle claims according to his best judgment.

The motion was adopted.

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Moved by the Rev. Dr. Rose,-

That the Secretary of this General Conference do issue a circular addressed to the Superintendents of Circuits in the Annual Conferences, embodying the directions contained in the resolution of this General Conference, requiring that collections be made in each preaching appointment for General Conference purposes, and especially to pay the expenses already incurred; and that said collections be paid to the Treasurers of the several Annual Conferences, and be by them immediately transferred to the Treasurer of the General Conference, so as to stop the interest on sums already advanced.

In amendment, it was moved by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., and seconded by D. Allison, LL.D.,-

That this Conference requests the Presidents of the several Annual Conferences to see that the General Conference collection is taken up in every Circuit and Mission, and remitted to the General Treasurer as soon as possible.

The amendment was adopted.

#### REPORT ON CLASS-MEETINGS.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Class-meetings was resumed.

The amendment to the amendment, moved by the Rev. H. F. Bland, was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. J. Hunt, and seconded by the Rev. J. H. Starr,—

That being profoundly impressed with the importance of promoting Christian fellowship as nearly as practicable according to the requirements of the New Testament Scriptures; believing also that the Class-meeting approaches nearer than any other practice to this requirement, and regarding frequent discussions on the conditions of Church membership as calculated to be injurious, in unsettling the minds and thereby retarding the spiritual progress of our members, therefore,—

Resolved, 1. That this General Conference hereby reaffirms the rule of our Church to regard the class-meeting as a test of membership therein.

2. That devout and seriously disposed persons in our various congregations seeking Christian fellowship, but who cannot be persuaded to become members of our classes, be invited to join us, and be welcomed at the table of the Lord, and their names entered on the Circuit record as communicants. That such persons shall be regarded as under the special pastoral care of our ministers, to induce them to seek the attainment of higher Christian life and spiritual blessings.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. T. W. Jeffery, and seconded by the Rev. J. G. Laird,—

That the recognition of admission to the membership of the Methodist Church of Canada shall be by a public profession, on the part of the candidate for membership, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as the only Saviour from all sin; and the expression of the desire to be thus saved, and

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an intention to strive earnestly to live up to the belief; and that the test of membership shall be—the regular attendance upon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which membership shall not be questioned so long as the life and character shall be in harmony with the General Rules of our Church.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment to the amendment,

by the Rev. L. Hooker, and seconded by Mr. R. Kenny,— 1. That the law of our Church bearing upon Class-meetings remain as it is.

2. That the General Conference declares that the test of membership in the Methodist Church is not alone in attendance at class, but also in obedience to the General Rules of our Church.

3. That question 3, p. 21 in the Discipline be so amended as to read, "What shall we do with those members of our Church who wilfully and repeatedly neglect to meet in class, and the other means of grace provided by our Church?"

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

It was further moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Potts,—

That we record our unwavering conviction of the great value of the class-meeting as a means for promoting the spirituality and growth of the Church; yet we judge that a rigid interpretation and application of the rule in reference to attendance at class may, in not a few instances, prove a hindrance rather than a help, by imposing on some consciences a burden which they are not able to bear, leading to a neglect of the most important ordinances of the Church; therefore,

Resolved,—That Superintendents of Circuits, in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting, shall have a discretionary power of admitting to the ordinances and privileges of the Church persons who give evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come and to be saved from their sins, although from constitutional timidity or conscientious scruples, they

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may be unwilling to meet in class. Provided, however, that the names of all such persons shall be placed in a classbook as in the case of other members, and that in all things they be held amenable to the Discipline of the Church.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment moved by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., was then put and lost.

The original recommendation by the Committee was then put and carried.

[For Report of Committee, see Appendix.]

The Conference adjourned at ten minutes past eleven o'clock.

### SATURDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 21ST.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Burwash.

The Minutes of the evening session of the preceding day were read by the Assistant Secretary and confirmed.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

The Rev. John Hunt submitted the Report of the Committee on Temperance, and, on motion, the Report was adopted.

It was moved by I. B. Aylesworth, M.D., and seconded by the Rev. William Scott,—

That the following explanatory note be attached to the rule on "Drunkenness," &c., viz. : The words "spirituous liquors" include all alcoholic or intoxicating liquors.

The motion was ruled out of order.

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It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice,-

That the Secretary of the Committee on Discipline, the Rev. Dr. Williams, be and is hereby authorized to edit the new issue of the Discipline of the Church; and that power is hereby given to correct all typographical and orthographical errors, and, for the sake of clearness, to rearrange paragraphs when necessary; also

That the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Secretary of the Conference; and the Rev. John Bredin, Journal Secretary, be and are hereby appointed to edit the General Conference

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. C. Fish,-

That the Secretary and Book Steward be appointed a Committee to publish, in suitable form, the Journal of this Conference; and also a new book of Discipline, embracing all changes and amendments passed at this General Conference.

The amendment was put and lost. The resolution was put and carried.

# SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The Rev. Dr. Burwash submitted a supplementary Report of the Committee on Education.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, and seconded by the Rev. L. N. Beaudry,-

That having recognized the necessity of providing the means of education for our French Canadian youth, and feeling that the duty is one of grave and growing importance, this General Conference recommends that the Stanstead Wesleyan College, already established and available for the purposes of such education, shall be utilized to that end, and that as soon as possible, arrangements be made to give effect to this resolution, by the Committee having the oversight of the French work in the Montreal Conference.

The motion was adopted.

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It was moved by the Rev. W. Scott, and seconded by the Rev. W. Hansford,---

That the salient points of the Memorial of the Montreal Conference to the General Conference, relative to the Stanstead Wesleyan College, be printed in the Appendix to the Journal of the General Conference.

The motion was adopted.

#### SUPERANNUATION FUND.

The Rev. Dr. Rice submitted the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the relation of the Superannuation Fund to the Missionary Society,—

That the Committee to whom the Conference committed the question concerning the claims of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund and Supernumerary Funds respectively, report that the claims that Missionaries who have travelled on Circuits of such a character as to give no support to those funds, have legitimate claims on the Missionary Fund claims that have been acknowledged for many years; that in order that those claims may be equitably adjusted, they instruct that grants be made to the Superannuated Ministers' Fund and the Supernumerary Fund in the proportion of six-sevenths to the Superannuated, and one-seventh to the Supernumerary Fund, on condition that these funds provide for the allowance of these Missionaries in accordance with the rules of the said Fund.

The Report was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, that not more than \$7,000, and not less than \$4,000 per annum be appropriated, in accordance with the preceding Report, during the ensuing quadrennium.

The motion was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Evans, and seconded by Mr. G. Webster,—

That our Colleges and other Institutions, in which ministers are employed who are subscribers to, and may become

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claimants on, the Superannuated Ministers' Fund, shall pay annually into the Fund an amount equal to the average amount paid by the Circuits.

The motion was not adopted.

REPORT ON ŒCUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

The Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D., submitted the Report of the Committee on the Œcumenical Conference.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the session was, on motion, prolonged for half an hour.

The discussion of the Report proceeded.

In amendment to the second clause of the Committee's Report, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland,---

That in case a Methodist Œcumenical Conference should be appointed for a period not later than the year 1882, the Committee appointed by this Conference shall appoint delegates to such Conference, such delegation to consist of \_\_\_\_\_\_ ministers and \_\_\_\_\_\_ laymen; but if the Conference be not held before 1883, the appointment of delegates shall be left to the next General Conference.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Report of the Committee was re-committed, with instructions to nominate the Committee provided for by the Report, so as to secure the representation of laymen on said Committee.

The Report of the Committee on Discipline was made the order of the day for the afternoon session.

The Conference adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 21ST.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. John Shaw.

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The Minutes of the forenoon session were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

#### REPORT ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

The Report of the Committee on Church Extension was submitted, and, on motion, was adopted, as follows :----

Your Committee begs leave to report that although it is convinced of the desirability of having a General Fund for Church Extension, it cannot at the present time recommend that one be established. J. G. ANGWIN, Secretary.

#### REPORT ON SCHEDULES.

The Report of the Committee on Schedules was submitted, and, on motion, adopted as follows :---

The Committee having had under consideration the Memorial of the London Conference, requesting the addition of two columns to Schedule B, for the purpose of reporting Church and Parsonage debts, reports that it does not deem the addition expedient at present.

It further reports in regard to the matter of preparing uniform schedules for the entire Church, that it has carefully considered the subject, and finds that the schedules now in use meet the requirements of the Discipline. The Committee does not, therefore, recommend any action in the case.

> J. G. LAIRD, Chairman. C. H. PAISLEY, Secretary.

#### REPORT ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

The Report of the Committee on Church Property was submitted, and, on motion, adopted.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams submitted Report No. 6 of the Committee on Discipline, as follows :---

1. In the case of distant Missions, or when for any cause it is impracticable for the President of the Conference to be present, each Annual Conference shall have authority to provide that the ordination of candidates approved by the Conference, shall be performed by the Chairman of the District, assisted by one or more ministers, according to our form of ordination.

Page 71, Question 1, Answer 1. Add "except in cases otherwise provided for."

Page 73, Question 1, Answer 3. Add "except in cases otherwise provided for."

2. The Ex-President of an Annual Conference, with two or more senior ministers, may be deputed by the Conference in certain special cases to ordain preachers who have been received into full connection.

3. That each Annual Conference, after the election of the number of ministerial delegates as provided in paragraph 2, page 26 in the Discipline, may elect a reserve delegate, and in addition to the reserve delegate so elected, shall also elect one reserve delegate for every ten members of the number it is entitled to send-such reserve to take the place of a delegate when by reason of death or for other cause there is a vacancy in the delegation, in the order of election as determined by number, provided always that the vacancy occurs before the meeting of the General Conference. Each District may elect a layman as a reserve in addition to the number of delegates it is entitled to elect, who may, upon notice from the President of the Conference, take the place of a delegate in the order of election as determined by number, when by reason of death or for other cause, there is a vacancy in the delegation, provided always that the vacancy occurs before the meeting of the General Conference.

4. That the basis for computing the number of ministers and laymen to compose the General Conference, shall be the number of ministers in full connection with the Conference,

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and the number of members as found in the Conference, next preceding that at which the election is made.

6. That the ministers hereafter appointed to office by the General Conference shall remain members of the District and Conference of which they were members before such appointment to office.

Page 71, 5th line from bottom, expunge "Affiliated Conference."

Page 75, 9th, expunge all after 9, and insert, "to give the President all necessary information of the state of his District."

Page 76, 9th line from bottom, expunge "bands," and substitute "classes."

Page 77, 13th line from the top, after "Circuit," expunge "to report to District Meeting," and insert, "and report the same to the fourth Quarterly Official Meeting. He shall also report the same to the District Meeting, with the number of members."

Page 77, 12th line from the bottom, expunge "last" and insert "fourth."

8. On notice of reference concerning the reception of members from other Evangelical Churches, we recommend that no change be made in the provision of the Discipline in that regard.

9. After due consideration of the notice of reference, asking changes in section 8, page 53, 2nd paragraph; and in answer 5, page 75, in reference to Chairmen of Districts, we cannot advise the alteration asked.

10. On the memorial in reference to the religious belief of official members and Sunday-school officers and teachers, we recommend no action.

11. Page 29, 15, last line, after "church," insert, "The Special Committee shall report its proceedings to the next onsuing General Conference."

Page 30, section 2, paragraph 2, expunge all after "it" in the third line of the paragraph.

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Page 38, 9th line from top, add "except those labouring on distant Missions."

12. The direction (a), page 27, be so altered and amended as to read,—

(a) The laymen in the Annual District Meetings next preceding the meeting of the General Conference shall elect, by ballot, from among the members of our Church within the bounds of the District, a representative or representatives to the General Conference; the number so elected to be determined by the number of Church members in the District, as compared with the entire membership within the bounds of the Annual Conference; nevertheless, in small Districts a representative shall not be elected unless the number of members in any such District be large enough, in comparison with the membership of the other Districts in the Conference, to entitle it to such representation. The whole number of laymen elected by the District Meetings shall not exceed the number of ministers elected by the Annual Conference.

### SECTION I.

### DOCTRINAL STANDARDS.

13. The doctrines of the Methodist Church of Canada are declared to be those contained in the articles of religion, and those taught by Mr. Wesley in his Notes on the New Testament, and the first fifty-two sermons of the first series of discourses published in his lifetime.

### SECTION II.

### ARTICLES OF RELIGION.

14. The twenty-five articles to remain intact.

15. Page 29, 15, to be so altered and amended as to read,---

Each General Conference shall appoint a Special Committee, on the nomination of the President, of not less than twelve persons, containing an equal number of ministers and laymen, who shall, from one General Conference to another, watch over and guard all the rights and privileges of our

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Church throughout the Connexion; promote, as far as possible, the recommendations of the General Conference; consider and decide upon any measures which may seem necessary for the general interests of the Church, and which could not have been foreseen at the meeting of the General Conference, and adopt such means for their accomplishment as it may judge expedient. The Special Committee shall be a Court of Appeal, having jurisdiction on questions of law arising in the Annual Conferences, and its decisions shall be binding on the Annual Conferences and other Church courts concerned. The decision of the Special Committee on appeals shall be final.

The Special Committee shall meet at the call of the President of the General Conference, and when called together, seven members shall form a quorum, a majority of whom shall be competent to render judgment in any case submitted to it. The Special Committee shall appoint its own Secretary. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the Committee may appoint its own presiding officer.

An appeal may be laid before the Special Committee against any action or decision of an Annual Conference involving a question of law, and if the appeal is sustained the action of the Conference against which the appeal is made shall not be enforced.

All notices of appeal shall be sent to the President of the General Conference, and all Presidents of Conferences against which an appeal is laid, shall furnish, as far as can be, all the documentary or other evidence that the Special Committee may require.

Provided the Special Committee, nevertheless, shall not exercise any legislative authority, or do anything that may interfere with the disciplinary duties of any Annual Conference, or any officer of the Church.

The Special Committee shall keep a record of its proceedings, and report to the next ensuing General Conference.

16. Page 104. After the last word, "standing," add: "The Committee of Finance and Consultation shall have authority to suspend any of the Officers of the Missionary

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Society, appointed by the General Conference, for incompetency, or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and to supply his place until the next meeting of the Central Board, which by a majority vote of those present may appoint another person to the office until the meeting of the next General Conference."

17. Page 111. Book Stewards. 1. Sub-Section : omit all after the word "Halifax."

18. Page 88. Answer 1. After "five" omit, "who shall not be members of the Quarterly Meeting," and insert, "who, if practicable, shall not be members of the Quarterly Official Meeting."

Omit all after "expel him," in the thirteenth line from the bottom, as it appears in another place.

# CHAPTER I.

# 19. THE ADMINISTRATION OF DISCIPLINE.

### SECTION I.

# GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

(1.) The officer under whose supervision a trial is to be conducted shall furnish to the accused, at least one week before the trial, a copy of the charges, along with notice of the time and place of trial.

(2.) In every case of an equal division of votes in a Committee of Investigation, the presiding officer shall have a casting vote.

(3.) A majority of the Committee appointed to conduct a trial shall constitute a quorum.

(4.) A defendant may challenge for cause the proportion of two in five of those nominated to form a Committee of Investigation, that is to say, may challenge, not peremptorily, but for reasons that are deemed sufficient by the presiding officer.

(5.) A majority of the Committee are competent to render a verdict.

(6.) The presiding officer shall see that a correct record be kept of the charges, evidence, and judgment in the case.

(7.) In all cases of trial and appeal the presiding officer shall refrain from delivering any charge to the Committee or from interfering in any way with their liberty of judgment.

(8.) If the accused person evade a trial, by absenting himself, after sufficient notice given him, and the circumstances of the accusation be strong and presumptive, let him be esteemed as guilty. In such a case no appeal is permitted to a higher court.

(9.) The testimony of non-members of the Church may be received.

(10.) A charge can be instituted only by a minister, a probationer for the ministry, or a full member of the Church.

(11.) A copy of the judgment of the Committee of Investigation, signed by the chairman and the members of the Committee approving thereof, shall be furnished to the accused within two days from the time when such judgment shall be formed.

(12.) In every case of an appeal the appellant must, within one week from receiving a copy of the judgment of the Committee, give notice to the presiding officer of his intention to appeal.

(13.) When an appellant does not appear personally or by a representative to prosecute his appeal, it goes by default.

(14.) In the conduct of an appeal the testimony presented to the lower court alone shall be received. If further evidence in the case is available, the Court of Appeal may order a new trial.

(15.) When the Appellate Court reverses the decision of the court below, the appellant is reinstated in his former membership without any action of the court from which he took the appeal.

20. When a member of the Church has made himself amenable to legal process before a Church court, and no

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charge is preferred against him, it becomes the duty of the Superintendent of the Circuit to institute a charge and proceed against the party as provided by the Discipline. In all such cases the Chairman of the District shall preside at the trial, and at the appeal, if there be an appeal.

No member shall be expelled from the Church unless by proper legal process, prescribed by the Discipline.

In amendment to the recommendation of paragraph 1, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—That instead of "Chairman" be substituted "any minister appointed by the Annual Conference."

The amendment was lost, and the recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

On motion, paragraph 2, referring to ordination by an Ex-President, was struck out.

In amendment to paragraph 20, requiring the Superintendent to institute charges, it was moved by the Rev. A. Langford, seconded by the Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A.,—

That when a member of the Methodist Church has made himself amenable to our Church courts, it shall be the duty of some member of the Church to institute charges, that the case may be proceeded with according to Discipline; but if for any cause those cognizant of the crime refuse to prefer charges, the Superintendent may institute a charge, and proceed against the party as provided by the Discipline.

The amendment was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Discipline as amended, was then adopted.

# COMMITTEE ON ŒCUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

The Rev. Dr. Nelles, on behalf of the Committee on Œcumenical Conference, reported the names of the lay members of the Standing Committee, as follows :--Hon. James Ferrier, Mr. John Macdonald, Mr. James Paterson, and Mr. J. B. Morrow.

The Report was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rose and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rice, that Mr. Warring Kennedy be appointed Co-Treasurer, with the Rev. Dr. Rose, of the General Conference Fund.

The motion was adopted.

The motion of the Rev. R. Duncan, regarding Trustees, of which notice had previously been given, was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

### ADDRESS TO THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson submitted the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare an Address to the Marquis of Lorne.

The Report was adopted. [See Appendix.]

The following were appointed a Committee to present the address to the Marquis of Lorne :—The President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary of the Conference, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the Hon. James Ferrier, Senator Aikins, and the Methodist ministers in Ottawa.

Conference adjourned at forty-five minutes past five.

#### MONDAY MORNING,

SEPTEMBER 23RD.

1878.

The Conference met at nine o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. A. E. Russ, M.A.

#### EXAMINATION OF PROBATIONERS.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson moved the following resolution :---

Whereas in the judgment of this General Conference there has never been a period when the pure doctrines of

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The amendation was adopted. Article VII

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God's Word were more required to be clearly and fully set forth; and *whereas* in the further judgment of this General Conference there has never been a time since Methodism was called into existence for the spread of Scriptural holiness throughout the land, when these doctrines were more clearly or with greater fidelity and success proclaimed by Methodist ministers; and *whereas* it is of the gravest importance that all candidates for our Ministry be thoroughly examined in their theology by and before the several Conferences into which admission is sought, be it therefore

Resolved,—That each Annual Conference be affectionately urged to attend with great fidelity and thoroughness to the examination of candidates for our ministry, prior to their reception into full connexion, that such examination be before the entire Conference, and that under no circumstances may such Conference examination be dispensed with by any Conference whatsoever.

The resolution was put to the Conference, but was not sustained.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

The Rev. Wm. Hansford read the final report of the Committee on Missions, being a revised Constitution for the Society.

The various articles were considered seriatim.

Articles I., II., III., IV., and V. were successively adopted.

In amendment to Article VI., it was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A.,-

That all moneys collected for Missions shall pass through the hands of the Chairmen of Districts to the General Treasurers, and all moneys from the General Treasurers shall also pass through the Chairman's hands.

The amendment was carried, and Article VI., as amended, was adopted.

Article VII. was adopted.

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Article VIII. was submitted, and sections 1 and 2 were adopted.

In amendment to section 3, it was moved by the Rev. J. Gray, and seconded by the Rev. S. Bond,—

That the word "departments" be left out, and that the clause read, "according to the necessities of the work."

The amendment was put and lost, and sub-section 3 of Article VIII. was adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, that the following be incorporated as section 4 of Article VIII.:--

That when an appropriation is made by the Central Board to any particular department of the work, the Annual Conference Committees shall not be at liberty to divert any part of the grant to any other department.

The motion was adopted.

Section 5 was adopted.

Section 6 was read, and the following addition, proposed by the Rev. Dr. Williams, was ordered to be incorporated with said section,—

The Committee of Finance and Consultation shall have authority to suspend any officer of the Missionary Society for incompetency or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and supply his place till the next meeting of the Central Board, which shall have authority to fill the vacancy till the next General Conference.

Articles IX. and X. were adopted.

Article XI. was considered by sections.

Section 1 was adopted.

Section 2 was adopted with the addition of the words, "to the several Conferences."

Sections 3 and 4 were adopted.

On motion, the matter relating to the Bermuda Mission was taken up.

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Committee reported, recommending that the Bermuda Mission be detached from the Nova Scotia Conference, and that it be connected with the Toronto Conference as a Mission District.

It was moved in amendment that the Bermudas continue in connection with the Nova Scotia Conference.

It was moved in amendment to the amendment,-

That Bermuda be detached from the Nova Scotia Conference and attached to the Toronto Conference.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was then put and carried.

# THANKS TO THE EX-PRESIDENT.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Potts, and seconded by the Hon. James Ferrier,-

That this General Conference hereby presents its most cordial thanks to the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., LL.D., the Ex-President, and desires to place on record its grateful appreciation of the eminent service rendered by him to the varied interests of the Methodist Church of Canada during the past four years.

We recognize his consecrated endowments as a gift to the Church, and we offer our devout prayers to Almighty God that his valuable life may be long spared to this Church, of which he has been a distinguished minister, and to the country, on whose educational history he has left the ineffaceable impress of his great ability; and that the richest consolations of grace may be his perpetual heritage.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The President conveyed to Dr. Ryerson, in suitable terms, the vote of the Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson briefly addressed the Conference in reply.

### MISSIONARY SOCIETY REPORT.

It was moved by the Rev. H. Sprague, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A.,-

That the General Report of the Missionaty Society shall be numbered from the organization of the Methodist Church of Canada, and shall be called "The — Annual Report of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada, being the — year from the organization of the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada."

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Pickard, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,—

That the matter under consideration be referred to the Central Board of Missions.

It was moved in amendment to the amendment by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. John Bredin,—

That a sub-title be added to the title of the Missionary Report, indicating the year since the union of the Methodist Churches.

The amendment to the amendment was put and carried.

The Committee on Missions nominated the following persons as members of the Central Board for the next four years :---

Ministers :- The Revs. James Gray, John Shaw, and Howard Sprague, M.A.

Laymen :--- The Hon. James Ferrier, Montreal; James Paterson, Toronto; and George H. Starr, Halifax.

The nomination was confirmed.

The President nominated the Special Committee of the General Conference as follows :----

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the Rev. Dr. Rice, the Rev. Dr. Elliott, the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, the Rev. Dr. Williams, the

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The Rev. of Victoria adopted :—

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Rev. Dr. Pickard, the Hon. James Ferrier, the Hon. S. L. Shannon, the Hon. W. G. Strong, the Hon. J. J. Rogerson, Judge Jones, and Mr. John Macdonald.

The nomination was confirmed by the Conference.

The Conference adjourned at twelve o'clock, to meet again at two p.m.

# MONDAY AFTERNOON,

SEPTEMBER 23RD.

The Conference met at two o'clock. The President in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Nelles.

The Minutes of Saturday's afternoon session were read, and also the minutes of this morning's session, and they were confirmed.

On motion, the name of the Rev. Dr. Taylor was added to the deputation who shall present the Conference Addres to the Marquis of Lorne.

# VICTORIA COLLEGE ENDOWMENTS.

The Rev. Dr. Rose, Treasurer of the Endowment Fund of Victoria College, read the following Report, which was adopted :---

The Conference having by resolution directed the Treasurer of the Endowment Fund to report the amount of money obtained during the last quadrennial period for the Endowment of Victoria College, I beg, therefore, to report as follows :--

1. I found it necessary to go back to the commencement of the Agent's term of service, extending over four years and ten months, as it is difficult, owing to the absence of the books, to separate the amounts collected during the ten months from the amounts collected during the four years.

2. The whole amounts subscribed are, for the Endowment Fund, \$58,000; for Faraday Hall, \$21,000. Total, \$79,-000.

3. Cash collected on old and new subscriptions, \$36,702.

4. The cost of collection is, on salary of Agent, \$8,933; expenses, \$1,385; total, \$10,317 05, or twenty-eight per cent. on the whole amount of cash received, which, deducted from the cash collected, leaves \$26,384 95, which has been carried to the Endowment Fund account. S. Rose.

### THANKS TO THE REV. DR. ROSE.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart, --

That the cordial thanks of this Conference are hereby presented to the Rev. Samuel Rose, D.D., for the great industry, faithfulness, ability, and success with which he has discharged the duties of Connexional Book Steward at Toronto during upwards of thirteen years; and, on his retirement from that office, we express our affectionate esteem for our faithful and devoted brother, and our prayers for his future happiness and usefulness.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

### THANKS TO THE REV. A. W. NICOLSON.

It was moved by the Rev. W. C. Brown, and seconded by the Rev. W. H. Heartz,—

That the thanks of this Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to the Rev. A. W. Nicolson for the able and judicious manner in which he has discharged the duties of Editor and Book Steward during his term of service in the Eastern Conference, and desire to record our gratification at the growth and prosperity of the Concern under his excellent management.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL HYMN-BOOK.

It was moved by the Hon. J. Ferrier, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Potts, and

Resolved,—That the Hymn-Book Committee be empowered and instructed to prepare a smaller Hymn-Book for use in our Sunday-schools and for social worship.

# CYCLOPÆDIA OF METHODISM.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Hart, seconded by the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, and

Resolved,—That this General Conference, approving of the efforts of the Rev. George H. Cornish, of the London Conference, to furnish a "Cyclopædia of Methodism in Canada," embracing the history of the late Canada Conference, the Conference of Eastern British America, and the New Connexion Conference, and of the six Annual Conferences now constituting the Methodist Church of Canada, hereby requests that the work may be published as soon as practicable, and pledges its hearty support to this valuable work.

ADDRESS TO THE ENGLISH CONFERENCE.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson read the Address of the General Conference to the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Great Britain.

The Address was adopted. [See Appendix.]

ADDRESSES TO SISTER CONFERENCES.

The Rev. Dr. Potts moved that fraternal addresses only be sent to Sister Conferences.

It was moved in amendment that one delegate be sent to each of the following Conferences, viz. : To the British Conference, to the Methodist Episcopal Church North, to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

The Rev. Dr. Williams presented Report No. 7 of the Committee on Discipline, as follows :---

1. Page 49, Section VI. After "District," add, "and in case of the death of the District Representative to the Annual Conference Missionary Committee, or when by the formation of a new District there is no District Representative, then the laymen present at the District Meeting shall elect by ballot one of their number to fill the office of District Representative."

2. In respect to the Memorial regarding revision of Financial District Meeting returns by the Board of Missions, the Committee deem no action necessary.

3. Section I, chapter II, page 57. That after the word "Ans." the number "1" be omitted, and inserted after the word "asked." That to the end of the section the following be added :----

With the consent of the Quarterly Meeting the Superintendent of the Circuit may license such persons to exhort. After sufficient proof of their gifts and usefulness they may be further received as Local Preachers on trial, and on the expiration of three months' trial, should their examination by the Local Preachers' Meeting, or Quarterly Meeting, be satisfactory, they shall receive licence as Local Preachers.

Young men attending College who may wish to become local preachers, may be received by the Quarterly Meetings of their Circuits as candidates, after due examination provided they present certificates of moral and religious character from the Dean of the Faculty.

The February Quarterly Meeting, or in the case of those who are leaving home to attend College, the August, or November Quarterly Meeting, may recommend such of its local preachers as it deems called to separate themselves entirely to the work of the ministry, and qualified therefor, to the next ensuing May District Meeting as candidates for the ministry. But no Quarterly Meeting shall recommend

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

any candidate until he has served as a local preacher for at

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4. Page 45, section 20, Ques. The remainder of the section to read as follows, and to be transferred to page 48:-Sixteenth-What preachers on trial are recommended to be sent to College?

(1.) Before any preacher on trial shall be sent to College with recommendation for a grant from the Educational Fund, his circumstances shall be inquired into by the District Meeting, and the minute of the District, in his case, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Educational Committee of the Annual Conference. No grant shall be made to any who have not travelled at least one year.

(2.) Preachers on trial appointed to attend College shall be responsible to the District Meeting from which they were recommended, and shall be recommended by said District Meeting, from year to year, for continuance on trial, or for reception into full connexion and ordination.

(3.) The examinations prescribed under questions second and third, in District Meetings, shall be conducted annually at each College by the examining board appointed for such College, and a report of the same forwarded to each District Meeting concerned, as far as relates to students belonging to such District. But the preachers on trial and at College shall not be required to attend the meeting of their Districts except when they are to be recommended for ordination, in which case they shall attend.

(4.) The District Meetings and Annual Conferences are recommended to send no preacher on trial to College for a term of less than two years, and whenever possible to extend

(5.) No preacher appointed to College shall be removed therefrom, except by authority of the President of his Conference, with the consent of the Chairman of his District and the President of his College, or Dean of Theology.

5. To amend Section V., page 14, to read thus :----

Members of our Church sometimes marry with careless, unawakened persons. This has produced bad effects : they

have been either hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition. To discourage this practice, let every minister and preacher enforce the Apostle's caution,—" Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," (2 Cor. vi. 14); and let them exhort all to take no steps in so weighty a matter without earnest prayer to God and consultation with judicious Christian friends.

We do not prohibit our people marrying persons who are not members of our Church, provided such persons have the form and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

In general, no young woman should marry without the consent, much less without the knowledge, of her parents or natural guardians. Nevertheless, there may be exceptional cases, as when they refuse to allow her to marry at all; or when they refuse to allow her to marry any Christian. But even in such cases she should seriously consult with those competent to give godly counsel.

6. Section II, page 20. Instead of answer 4, insert the following :----

By frequently reminding the people of the importance of this part of religious worship, and by exhorting them to "sing with the spirit and with the understanding-also."

Omit answer 6 altogether.

Answer 8.—Expunge all after "book," and insert, "and appoint some suitable person to conduct the singing."

Answer 9.—Expunge all after "sing."

7. Section VI., page 15. Amend this section to read as follows:—

While the New Testament gives no specific directions in regard to dress, yet its spirit is manifestly against the use of costly or gaudy apparel, and the wearing of needless ornaments; therefore, let all our ministers and preachers discourage in the Church whatever in this respect is contrary to Christian simplicity; and in order to do this, let them read the thoughts upon dress at least once a year, in every society where such counsels seem to be needed.

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8. Section IV., page 23. To omit altogether the whole of section IV., in reference to Band Societies.

9. In reference to the Memorial asking for a change in the Discipline in relation to the division of Districts, the Committee do not recommend any change in the Discipline in that regard.

Several Memorials on Changes in the Ritual : the Committee decline to recommend any change.

10. On the overture asking that the journals of the Annual Conferences be brought to the General Conference for inspection, the Committee do not recommend any action.

11. That the answer to the questions as to the mode of Baptism, as found in the Discipline, be made to conform to the Journal of Conference as on page 219; which is not "any other mode," but, "another mode."

12. Upon a resolution of Mr. Thomas Nixon, the Committee recommend—

That as soon as there are in the Red River District eighteen Ministers in full connexion and ordained, the said District may give notice to the Special Committee of the General Conference, and by a two-thirds vote, establish itself into a separate Conference, to be called the Manitoba Conference.

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were successively put to the Conference, and adopted.

In amendment to paragragh 9, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland,—

That no District shall be divided unless recommended by a vote of the annual meeting of the District concerned.

It was moved in amendment to the amendment, by the Rev. Dr. Rice,—

That no District shall be divided without either the concurrence of the Districts concerned or a three-fourths vote of the Stationing Committee.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost. The amendment was also lost.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

In amendment to paragraph 12, regarding a Conference in Manitoba, it was moved that the matter be indefinitely postponed.

The motion was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Discipline, as amended, was then adopted.

It was moved by the Rev. R. Duncan, and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Paisley, M.A.,—

That the following be placed after paragraph 2, section 3, page 124 of the Discipline :—

Except in such Provinces in the Dominion of Canada, and such Colonies included within the territory of the Methodist Church of Canada, as have passed laws providing for the election to the office of Trustees of other than members of our Church; in which case it shall be competent for any Superintendent of a Circuit to nominate members of our congregations to the office of Trustee: provided, nevertheless, that the number of persons so nominated and elected shall not exceed one-fourth of the whole number of persons composing the Board, and that in every instance they shall be persons of good moral character.

The motion was not sustained.

#### POWERS OF GENERAL PRESIDENT.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson brought up his notice of motion respecting the powers and duties of the President of the General Conference.

It was moved in amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rice, and seconded by the Rev. G. S. Milligan, M.A.,-

That this General Conference considers it necessary to provide assistance for its President in the discharge of his manifold duties, and that an appropriation be made from the General Conference Fund to meet the expenses that may be incurred.

The amendment was adopted.

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In regard to the amount to be appropriated for the foregoing purpose, it was

Resolved,—That the matter be referred to a Committee, to consist of the Revs. Dr. Rice, Dr. Williams, John Shaw, J. W. Sparling, B.D., Hon. J. Ferrier, and Mr. Warring Kennedy.

It was moved by the Rev. H. Pickard, and seconded by the Rev. A. Sutherland,—

To insert the words, "and especially to attend as many as possible of the sessions of the Annual Conferences," between the words "Conference" and "provided," in the 14th section of the Discipline, page 29.

The motion was adopted.

# TELEGRAM FROM THE REV. DR. WOOD.

The following telegram from the Rev. Dr. Wood was read :--

To the Rev. President, Secretary, and members of the Methodist General Conference :—I accept, and highly appreciate the honorary appointment. Will cheerfully help to guide and forward the great cause you now deliberate to consolidate and advance. Thanks to all the brethren, especially to the Hon. J. Ferrier, whose influence greatly facilitated the union of 1854 for which we laboured from 1847.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COURSE OF STUDY.

The Report of the Committee on the Course of Study was introduced and read by the Rev. C. Jost, M.A.

The section recommending the appointment of a Central Board to prepare the questions for examination, was, on motion, struck out.

The further consideration of the Report was deferred. The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock, to meet again at half-past seven.

## MONDAY EVENING,

SEPTEMBER 23RD.

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The Conference met at half-past seven o'clock. The Vice-President in the chair.

After the usual devotional services, the minutes of the afternoon session were read and confirmed.

### THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Moved by the Rev. Joseph Hart, and seconded by the Rev. J. Taylor,---

That the cordial thanks of this General Conference are due, and are hereby presented to the Rev. George Douglas, LL.D., for the impartiality and distinguished ability which has characterized the discharge of the important and weighty duties of presiding officer of this body during its protracted sittings, and it is our prayer that God may long spare him, in his sphere of usefulness, to the Church.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

## THANKS TO THE SECRETARIES.

Moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by the Rev. John Shaw,-

That the thanks of this General Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to the Secretary, the Rev. A. Sutherland, the Assistant Secretaries, Dr. Allison and his Honor Judge Jones, and the Journal Secretary, the Rev. John Bredin, for the courtesy and efficiency with which they have respectively discharged their duties.

The motion was adopted.

# THANKS TO FRIENDS IN MONTREAL.

Moved by the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, M.A., seconded by the Rev. William Scott, and-

Resolved,—That the best thanks of this General Conference are hereby tendered to those kind friends whose hospitality 1878.]

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

the representatives have so much enjoyed during the protracted sessions of the Conference, with the earnest prayer that God's richest blessings may rest upon them; and that this expression of our gratitude be conveyed to all inter ested by the ministers of our Church in the manner they may deem best.

## GRANT TO SECRETARIES.

Moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by J. R. Inch, LL.D.,—

That as a mark of our appreciation of the efficient services rendered to this General Conference, and in view of much labour yet to be performed, by its Secretary and Journal Secretary, and by the Secretary of the Committee on Discipline, the sum of fifty dollars be paid to each of these brethren, out of the Book-room, by the Book Steward.

The motion was adopted.

THANKS TO PASTOR AND TRUSTEES.

Moved by Mr. Warring Kennedy, and seconded by J. R. Inch, LL.D.,-

That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the Pastor and Trustees of this Church for the privilege of holding its sessions therein.

The motion was adopted.

THANKS TO RAILWAY AND STEAMBOAT COMPANIES.

Moved by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, and seconded by the Rev. D. D. Currie,-

That the thanks of this Conference be presented to the Managers of Railway and Steamboat Lines who have granted special privileges of travel to its members.

The motion was adopted.

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#### THANKS TO PUBLISHERS.

Moved by the Rev. J. McAlister, seconded by the Rev. D. D. Currie, and—

Resolved,—That the General Conference tenders its thanks to the proprietors of the Montreal Gazette, the Daily Witness, the Montreal Herald, and the Montreal Daily Star, for their thoughtful courtesy in providing for the use of its members the daily issues of these respective journals.

#### THE LATE JUDGE WILMOT.

The resolution relating to the late Judge Wilmot, of which notice had been given, was taken up as follows :---

Moved by the Rev. J. Lathern, and seconded by the Hon. James Ferrier,—

That while, for many years, the late Hon. L. A. Wilmot, Ex-Governor of New Brunswick, occupied with conspicuous and distinguished advantage the highest positions of public responsibility and influence, for which, by the possession of varied and brilliant gifts, he was pre-eminently qualified; yet, believing that the best efforts and most cherished sympathies of his life were, with unswerving loyalty, given to the Methodist Church, in recognition of his noble character, consistent life, and eminent usefulness, we gladly accord to his name and memory this expression and permanent record of our esteem and veneration.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

#### INDEX TO DISCIPLINE.

Moved by the Rev. Louis N. Beaudry, and seconded by the Rev. Stephen Bond,---

That those authorized to publish the Discipline be instructed to give, in addition to the general table of contents, a thorough index of subjects in alphabetical order.

The motion was adopted.

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# REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME.

The Report of the Children's Home, Hamilton, was read by the Rev. W. Williams.

On motion, the Report was received, and referred to the Editor of the *Christian Guardian* for publication.

# REPORT ON COURSE OF STUDY.

The consideration of the Report on the Course of Study was resumed.

In amendment to that clause of the Committee's report referring to the literary qualifications of candidates, it was moved by the Rev. W. C. Henderson, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. E. H. Dewart,—

1. That the standard of qualification for young men recommended to be received into our Conferences as probationers, shall not be lower than 50 per cent. of the marks on the Preliminary Course of Study.

2. That any candidate who may present a Public School Teacher's certificate of the second-class, or a certificate of having passed a Matriculation Examination at any of our Universities, shall not be required to be examined on the English branches of the preliminary course.

In amendment to the amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland,—

That the standard of qualification of candidates for our ministry, in secular studies, shall be equivalent to the standard of matriculation at Victoria and Sackville Colleges.

The amendment to the amendment was put and lost.

The amendment was then put and adopted.

On motion, the Report as amended was adopted.

[For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The Report of the Committee on the State of the Church, was read by the Secretary and adopted by the Conference.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

Moved by the Rev. John A. Williams, D.D., and seconded by the Rev. R. Fowler, M.D.,—

That the Annual Conferences are required to present, through the President of the Conference, to the General Conference, a tabulated statement of the membership of the Church, the Sunday-schools, the number of churches, with the value of the same, number of Parsonages and their value, number of Burial-grounds and their value, and such other information as may help the General Conference to a correct estimate of the state of the Church.

The motion was adopted.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The Report of the Committee on Itinerancy was resumed. In amendment, it was moved by the Rev. A. Sutherland, and seconded by the Rev. J. Hart,—

That it shall be competent for the Transfer Committee to receive proposals for transfer from individual ministers, from the Presidents of the Annual Conferences, the President of the General Conference, or from a Quarterly Official Meeting; provided the brother whom it is proposed to transfer be notified of such proposal at least two months before the next meeting of the Transfer Committee.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Green, that the part of the Report under consideration lie on the table.

The motion was not sustained.

An amendment to the amendment of the Rev. A. Sutherland, proposed by the Rev. Mr. Hart, was withdrawn.

The amendment was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Itinerancy as amended was then adopted.

[For Report as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

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The Con reported :-The Con disposal of &c., to be j

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARIES

The Report of the Committee on Boundaries was read by the Secretary.

On motion, the Report was amended by authorizing the transfer of the appointments mentioned in section 4, to the Montreal Conference. Also, the transfer of Vennachar Mission, from the Belleville District, Toronto Conference, to the Kingston District, Montreal Conference.

The Report, as amended, was adopted.

# PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES.

The Committee on providing for the President's expenses reported :----

The Committee recommend that \$1,000 be placed at the disposal of the President, to cover expenses of assistance, &c., to be provided as follows :—

From the General Conference Fund	¢ -	
From the Mission Fund	Ф500	00
From the Mission Fund From the Educational Fund	300	00
The Report was adopted.	200	00

# NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

On motion, it was *Resolved*,—That the next Session of the General Conference be held in the City of Halifax, N.S.

The resolution was subsequently reconsidered, whereupon, on motion, it was

Resolved,—That the next Session of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada be held in the Sydenham Street Methodist Church, in the City of Kingston, to begin on the first Wednesday in September, 1882, at nine o'clock a.m.

### RELATION OF CHILDREN TO THE CHURCH.

In reference to the Report of the Committee on the Relation of Children of the Church, it was

Resolved,—That the subject lie on the table until the next General Conference.

### REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Report No. 2 of the Sabbath-school Committee was read, and, on motion, was adopted with a verbal amendment.

[For Report, as finally adopted, see Appendix.]

### QUARTERLY TICKETS.

It was moved by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, and seconded by the Rev. D. D. Currie,—

That the quarterly ticket of membership shall be prepared under the supervision of the President of the General Conference, and shall be furnished to the Superintendents of Circuits at cost.

The motion was adopted.

The fraternal address to the Australasian General Conference was read, and, on motion, adopted.

[For Address, see Appendix.]

### DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

The Report of the Committee to whom was referred the subject of a day of thanksgiving, was read by the Secretary and adopted by the Conference.

[For Report, see Appendix.]

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Moved by the Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A., and seconded by the Rev. A. Andrews,—

That those notices of motion whose promoters are present to pursue them shall now be taken up and disposed of, but that all others be indefinitely postponed.

The motion was adopted.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# CONNEXIONAL NOTICES.

Moved by the Rev. S. F. Huestis, and seconded by the Rev. W. C. Brown,-

That all connexional notices, such as District Meetings, Missionary Anniversaries, &c., shall be published in our periodicals free of cost.

Moved in amendment, by the Rev. H. Sprague, M.A.,-That this matter be left to the Eastern Book Committee. The amendment was put and lost. The resolution was then put and carried.

# BAPTISM OF PROBATIONERS.

The following motion, of which notice had previously been given by the Rev. E. Robson, was taken up, and, on being put to the vote, was adopted :----

Resolved,-That the following clause be added to the directions relative to Baptisms: Let the minister when receiving persons on trial for membership particularly enquire whether or not they have been baptized, and if not, let that rite be administered as soon as practicable.

MEMORIAL OF THE REV. R. PHELPS.

A memorial from the Rev. R. Phelps, in reference to his claims on the Superannuation Fund, was received. motion of the Rev. E. B. Harper, M.A., the document was referred back to Brother Phelps, as this General  $Conferenc_e$ has no jurisdiction in the matter.

# FRENCH TRANSLATION OF DISCIPLINE.

In reference to the request of the Montreal Conference that an edition of the Discipline be published in French, it

Resolved,-That the subject be referred to the Executive of the Western section of the Book Committee.

#### CIRCUIT SCHEDULES.

Moved by the Rev. A. Andrews, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Williams,—

That the Book Stewards of the Western and Eastern divisions be directed to prepare schedules, and forward them to the Superintendents of Circuits and Missions, containing columns for tabulating the number of members on trial and in full membership, the necessary information of the Sundayschools, the number of churches, parsonages, and burial grounds, with their respective values ;—which schedule snall be filled up and presented to the Annual District Meeting preceding the General Conference, from which the Report of the respective Annual Conferences shall be tabulated. The cost of the printing be met by the Contingent Funds of the respective Annual Conferences.

### ELECTION OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

Nominations were received for representatives to sister Conferences, and ballots taken, whereupon the following were elected :—

To the British Conference,-The Rev. Samuel Coley.

To the M. E. Church, U. S.—The Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A.

To the M. E. Church South,-The Rev. Howard Sprague, M.A.

To the M. E. Church in Canada,—The Rev. W. S. Blackstock.

On motion, it was resolved that the Reports of Addresses not adopted by this Conference, shall be submitted to the President for his approval.

Verbal Reports from the Delegates of the last General Conference to sister Conferences were received. 1878.]

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Minutes of this evening were read by the Secretary and confirmed by the Conference.

The Doxology was sung and the Rev. Dr. Rice pronounced the Benediction.

Whereupon, at eleven o'clock p.m., the President declared the Conference closed.



GEORGE DOUGLAS,

President.

A. SUTHERLAND,

Secretary.

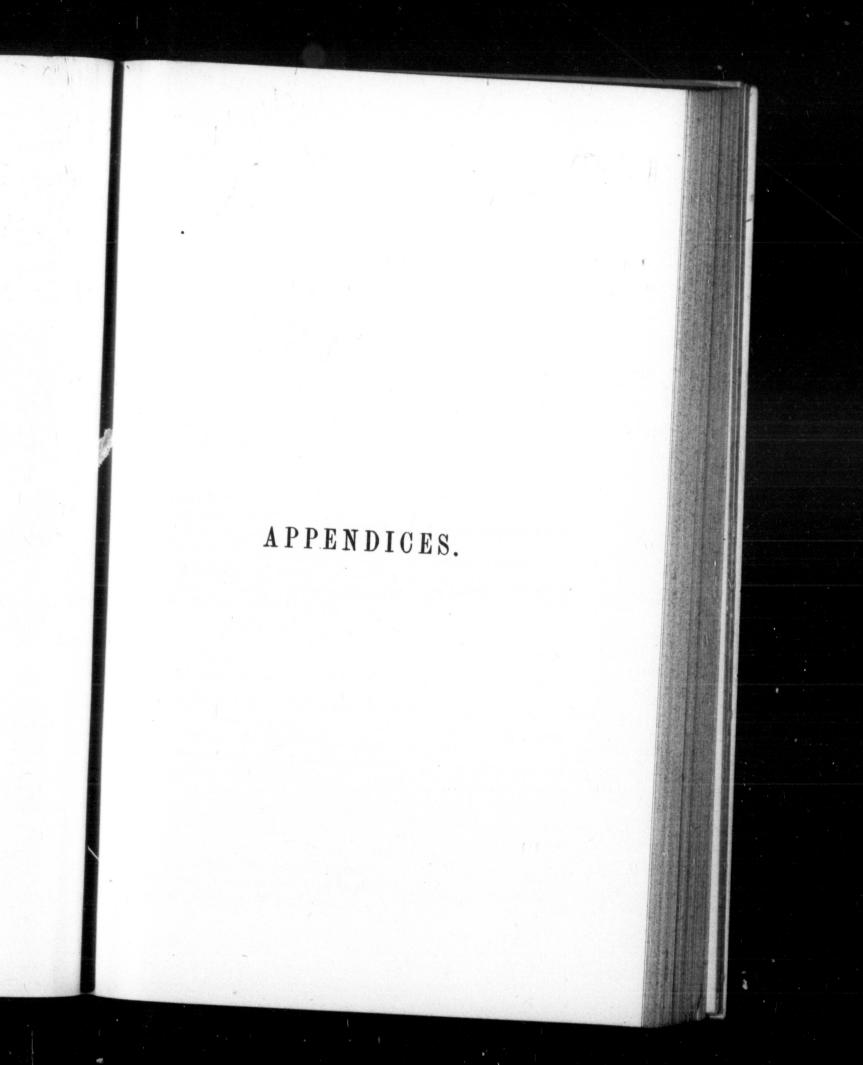
JOHN BREDIN,

Journal Secretary.

GENERAL CONFERENCE ROOM, MONTREAL, September, 23rd, 1878.







# 1878.] REPORTS O INSTIT REPORT PAGE APPENDIX A. Our oldes on the India 165 APPENDIX B. 220 influence of APPENDIX C. so extensive, 289 specimens in the Ojibway watomies wer years but litt bers, Mission have all been Two visits Superior, wit every spring f Bay Company an agent of would be a g ally have no s

enterprise sho interests of th Michipicoton, visits from Mis ence to the Me JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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# APPENDIX A.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND CONNEXIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND REFERRED TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

# REPORT OF CENTRAL MISSIONARY BOARD.

# I. RELIGIOUS AND STATISTICAL.

Our oldest Missions to a pagan people are to be found on the Indian Reserves of the Province of Ontario. The influence of Christianity upon the various tribes has been so extensive, that only in a few places are to be seen specimens in pagan dress, manners, and usages of what the Ojibways, Oneidas, Munceys, Delawares, and Pottawatomies were some fifty years ago. During the last four years but little change has taken place either in the numbers, Missions, or Missionaries in Ontario. The Missions have all been maintained with vigor and success.

Two visits have been made to the north shore of Lake Superior, with spiritual profit to the Indians who come every spring from the interior to trade at the Hon. Hudson Bay Company's post at Michipicoton. The appointment of an agent of the Society, who understood their language, would be a great blessing to these wanderers, who literally have no settled habitation. A man of endurance and enterprise should be specially charged with the spiritual interests of the people at Batchewana Bay, the Pic, and Michipicoton, who, notwithstanding their very occasional visits from Missionaries, still prefer and profess their adherence to the Methodist Church.

1878.]

Of the Mount Elgin Industrial School favourable report can be made, although the Board have just reason to complain that the departure of the Indian Department from the original agreement, of making provision for fifty resident pupils, has entailed great expense upon the Society, never anticipated when the enterprise was first started, now extending over twenty-five years. Whatever improvements in social, agricultural, or mechanical life may be manifest among the different bands, portions of whose annuities have been given up for the maintenance of the Institution, may be traced to the training Indian youth have there received.

The Missions formerly known as existing in the Hudson's Bay Territory, now in Keewatin, have received much attention from the Board; that at Rossville, Norway House, has been diminished in size by the formation of another reserve at Fisher River, on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, about eighty miles from Selkirk. The immigrants from Rossville amount to two hundred, all adherents of our Church, but inefficiently supplied with religious ordinances, dependent upon a native teacher, with an occasional visit from the resident Missionary at Beren's River. Sheer poverty has prevented the Board from the expenditure, so pressingly needed, for the formation of a Mission, and the recommendation of an ordained Missionary to take charge of this branch of our spiritual household. Beren's River, Oxford House, and Nelson River have repaid the labourers' toil who have sown the seed of the word, which has given fruitful evidence of having fallen into good ground.

Since the meeting of the first General Conference, the Board and the Methodist Church have been called to mourn over the mysterious death of the Rev. George McDougall, the Chairman of the Saskatchewan District. Self-denying, brave, and enthusiastically devoted to the great work of saving souls, his loss is greatly felt amongst all the Indians in that vast territory. They had unbounded and child-like confidence in his love for their race, and in his wisdom to guide them in whatever affected their interests for both worlds—present and future. His place has been supplied

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# 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

by his worthy son, the Rev. John McDougall, whose work at Morley and its surroundings presents features of interest and encouragement, confined principally to the Stoneys and Crees, with an occasional visit to the Blackfeet and to Fort McLeod, where he has succeeded in opening a Day and Sabbath-school by one of the Society's most valuable agents. The prosperous Mission at White Fish Lake maintains its interesting features of a happy and Christian community; but the alterations in progress, created by the transition state of the Indians, and the expected opening of the territory for settlement, will call for the most careful attention of the Central Board for some time to come.

In the Report of 1874, the Missions of Fort Simpson and Naas, in British Columbia, had no place; within this period a commodious Sanctuary and Mission House have been completed at Fort Simpson, a large day-school established, a Methodist Church of 252 members has been formed; and at Naas and other places within reach of the Missionary labouring there, many have been converted to God, some of whom voluntarily spread themselves abroad to preach that gospel to their pagan fellow men, which has been made the glorious instrument of their own salvation. The calls for Missionaries along this coast, and from Queen Charlotte Island, are loud and affecting.

The Mission to Japan continues to be favoured with such tokens of the Divine blessing as excite our gratitude, and tend to increase the confidence of many who have subscribed largely to its maintenance. The brethren to whom have been solemnly committed the responsible and honourable task of laying the foundation of our Zion amongst those interesting people, have proved themselves faithful, zealous, and successful ministers of the word of life, and God has accompanied the elevation of the cross with the "drawing" influences the Saviour himself declared should ever attend His being "lifted up" as the only hope and refuge for perishing sinners. In addition to the membership constituting Christian churches at Tokio, Shidzuoka, and Numadzu, the Head of the Church is raising up a native ministry, men who have gifts as well as grace, to publish to the

millions around them, "in their own tongue, the wonderful works of God." Five candidates for the ministry have already been received on trial, and others are being trained, according to our disciplinary usages, for the same holy work. A risit from Mr. Eby to Nambu, during the year, awakened such a lively interest in favour of the Gospel that it has resulted in his taking up his residence at Kofu, the capital of the Province, by their own earnest entreaty, where he has cheering openings, among thousands of these benighted people, of sowing "the seed of the word" with every certainty of an abundant harvest: for, where there is a good soil for this to fall into, heavenly influences coming down upon the people as rain upon mown grass,

### "Watered by *His* Almighty hand, The seed shall surely grow."

We are glad to say that the sisterhood of the Mission families are diligent Christian workers, and are exercising a good influence upon Japanese women and youth, to whom, in their different localities, they have access.

The German Missions have not been increased in number; they are confined now to Hamilton, Preston, and Paris, in the West; and Renfrew, Thorne, and Eganville, in the East. These places are supplied by three Missionaries, whose labours are much appreciated by the people, and whose ministrations have been blessed in the conversion of souls, and in building up the followers of Christ in the faith of the Gospel.

Missions to the French in the Province of Quebec have been blessed with prosperity, notwithstanding the formidable hostilities which, in various shapes, have to be contended with. The Lord is raising up agencies, great and effectual, for any place or work we may have for them. It is to be regretted that the means at the disposal of the Central Board are too limited to allow of all the open doors for the introduction of Protestantism being promptly entered.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

In the Missionary Districts the work amongst the new Settlers is enlarging, especially in Manitoba, where we have now ten Missions and nine Missionaries. The tide of immigration to this fertile province and the territory beyond it, capable of sustaining millions of people, is sure to flow rapidly for many years to come. This great country will, doubtless, be carefully remembered by the Central Board and the appointing power of the Methodist Church.

With reference to the wide field over which are spread the Domestic Missions of the Church, in the Upper and Lower Provinces, the Society's Missionaries have laboured with fidelity and zeal; nor have they been without evidences of success. In the more eastern part of the Mission field both exposure and danger fall to the lot of the worker; but cheered by the warm and friendly greetings of the lonely lumberer, or the hardy and adventurous fisherman, and above all, animated and borne up by the presence of a covenant-keeping God, the task assigned them has been energetically and perseveringly completed. The brethren in the North may justly vie with those in the East as to who should have the palm for contending with physical difficulties. It is the pleasant duty of the Secretaries to state-so far as the Missionary Department is concerned-but very few difficulties have occurred, and those of a nature easily adjusted. The uniting of the two bodies of Methodists in the Upper Province has been most harmoniously accomplished, and during the past four years ministers and people have unitedly been worshipping and working as though they had never occupied other than one position in the Lord's vineyard. Whilst regretting the inability to enlarge the boundaries of the Church to the extent to which openings have been presented, and loud calls for help have been heard, they cherish the hope that better times are not very distant, when the treasury of the Lord shall be greatly replenished, the incubus of a large standing debt removed, and every part of the Missionary field relieved from any just complaint or personal suffering. To God be all the glory for the good already done; and to Him we look for future guidance and spiritual triumphs.

#### SUMMARY.

#### INDIAN MISSIONS.

Missions.	Missionaries.	Members.	
Missions to the Indians in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Hud- son's Bay Territory, and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec	40*	3,013	
JAPAN.			
Missions to the Japanese 4	9†	100	
TO THE GERMANS.			
Missions to the Germans 5	3	284	
TO THE FRENCH IN QUEBI	EC.		
Missions in the Province of Quebec 9	9	274	
MISSIONARY DISTRICTS.			
Missions to the Settlers and Half- Breeds in British Columbia, Red River, and Algoma Districts } 24	23	1,320	
DOMESTIC MISSIONS.		• 1	
Toronto Conference.54London47Montreal74Nova Scotia62New Brunswick and P. E. I. Conf.46Newfoundland Conference.40	64 57 80 64 49 39	6,081 4,573 6,342 6,269 3,609 7,300	
Total 409	422	39,165	

In addition to the number of ordained Missionaries, there are 15 Native Assistants, and 5 Ministers on Circuits supplying small bands of Indians. There are 33 Schools and 33 Teachers; and 21 Interpreters; making a paid Agency in the Missionary Department of the Methodist Church of Canada, of 496.

In 1874 there were 231 Missions, being an increase of 178. "259 Missionaries, "163. "total paid Agency, 320, being an increase of 176.

> ENOCH WOOD, ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, General Secretaries.

\* Ten of these are Native Assistants.

† Five of these are Native Preachers

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INCOME, — Subscription Juvenile Off Legacies... Grant from I Miscellaneou

> Total Expenditure

Surplus..... Deficit

Gross Income " Expend Deficit

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONEERENCE.

# II. --- FINANCIAL.

The General Treasurers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada beg to submit to the General Conference the following Report of the financial condition of the Society for the quadrennial period ending June 30th, 1878 :---

# 1.—Comparative Statement of Annual Income and Expenditure.

NCOME, - Subscriptions and C. H	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.
Subscriptions and Collections. Juvenile Offerings Legacies. Grant from England Miscellaneous Total Expenditure	4£6 50 5099 12	$\begin{array}{c} 10209 & 00 \\ 4866 & 67 \\ 9544 & 21 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 3423 & 67 \\ 4866 & 67 \\ 3534 & 43 \end{array}$	\$15912 40 16753 35 469 50 4838 90 3501 00
Surplus	185268 84	\$162639 73 158677 64	\$145998 92 174255 92	\$141475 1
	\$38100 34	3962 09	\$28257 00	\$9548 12
Gross Income for quadrennial period "Expenditure"				597,282 27 669,225 64

NOTE. — This deficit is reduced by a balance brought over from 1873-4.

The foregoing statement shows a falling off—though not large—in the income from ordinary sources, and the usual fluctuations in that from miscellaneous sources. In subscriptions and collections the difference between 1874.5 and 1877-8 is \$3,648 67; but when we remember that this has occurred during a season of the heaviest commercial depression that Canada has ever known, the only wonder is that the decrease has been so small. Then in juvenile offerings there has been a steady decrease, falling from \$22,051 81 in 1874-5 to \$16,753 32 in 1877-8, or a difference of \$5,298 49; this is a significant fact, and calls for the serious attention of those who have the charge of Circuits and Sunday-schools. The income from legacies is, of course,

always uncertain, and should never be taken into account in making the appropriations for any year; the amount for the first and last years of the period is almost precisely the same ( $$456\ 50$  and  $$469\ 50$ ), but in 1875-6 the income from this source suddenly rose to \$10,209, while in 1876-7 it was  $$3,423\ 67$ . Considerable fluctuation is also observable in miscellaneous income, being less in 1877-8 than in any of the three preceding years; this is partly accounted forby the fact that the grants to our Indian Schools from the Indian Department are now two years in arrears.\*

### 11.—Statement of Income and Expenditure by Conferences. 1874-5.

Toronto\$40093Mission Districts2243Algoma2243Red RiverSaskatchewanBritish ColumbiaJapanLondon34600	95		\$21907 78 45450 00 4651 36 15434 42 9084 71		
Algoma Red River Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan			4651 36 15434 42		
Red River Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan			15434 42		
Red River Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan			15434 42		
Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan					
British Columbia Japan			0001 11		
Japan			12121 28	•••••	•••••
			4158 23	•••••	
London			1100 20		•••••
	92	Í	20933 33		
Iontreal 34769	27		29608 10		
Late M. N. C 6397	08		11354 77		
Nova Scotia 10227	64		11213 89		
New Brunswick & P.E.I. 8332	47		9107 58	•••••	
	91		7406 95	•••••	** ** **
legacies 117					
Aiscellaneous 5099			12988 44		
At. Elgin Ind. Institu'n			8170 00		
undry Appropriations			7128 00		•••••
5 11 1			120 00		
Total \$147168	50		\$185268 84		

 $^{\ast}$  Since the Report was presented, the arrears for schools in Ontario have been paid.

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Toronto..... Mission Distr

Algoma Red River Saskatchew British Com Japan

London..... Montreal..... Late M. N. C Nova Scotia New Bruns, an Newfoundland Legacies Grant from En Miscellaneous Mt. Elgin Ind. 1 Sundry Appropr

Total ....

Net Increase of '' Decrease of Excess of Incom Net deficit, June

Toronto		•	•					
Mission	I	)j	8	t	r	ic	t	8

Algoma ..... Red River.... Saskatchewan . British Columb Japan ....

London ..... Montreal.... Nova Scotia.... New Bruns. and P. Newfoundland ... Grant from Englan Legacies .... Miscellaneous .... Mt. Elgin Ind. Inst Sundry Appro.....

Total ......

Net Decrease of Ind "Increase of Ex Excess of Expendit Net deficit, June 30

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

## 1875-6.

CONFERENCES, &c.	INCOME.	Inc.	DEC.	EXPEN.	INC.	DEC.
Toronto Mission Districts Algoma	3624 23	\$1380 28	\$776 79	\$19272 80 37805 43		\$2634 98 7644 57
Red River Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan		······ ······	·····	4572 13 10188 29 9654 72 10043 49	\$570 01	79 23 5246 13 2077 79
London Montreal Late M. N. C Nova Scotia New Bruns, and P.E.I.	$\begin{array}{c} 37862 & 64 \\ 32281 & 19 \\ \vdots \\ 10706 & 02 \\ 7358 & 63 \end{array}$	478 38	291 72 3378 89	3346 80 21314 20 24228 41 11258 33	380 87	811 43 5379 69 11354 77
Legacies	$\begin{array}{c} 5005 & 46 \\ 10121 & 00 \\ 4866 & 67 \\ 9544 & 21 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 10003 & 00 \\ 4866 & 67 \\ 4445 & 09 \end{array}$	973 84 281 45	8218 34 8478 19	1071 24	889 24
Total	62639 73 \$1	5471 23		5192 02 5450 00	4471 48	2977 98 1678 00 26591 20
Net Increase of Income for "Decrease of Expendit Excess of Income over Ex Net deficit, June 30th, 187	6	year for the ye			\$1 2	5,471 23 6,591 20 3,962 09 5,338 70

## 1876-7.

Toronto Mission Districts Algoma	4001 1	9 \$376 9	\$628 7	9 \$24837 38 43210 42	\$5564 58 5404 99	
Saskatchewan British Columbia. Japan.				$\begin{array}{r} 4809 \ 47\\ 10069 \ 99\\ 7375 \ 70\\ 7613 \ 15\\ 13342 \ 11 \end{array}$		\$118 30 2279 02 2430 34
Notreal. Nova Scotia. New Bruns. and P.E.I. Newfoundland Grant from England. Legacies Miscellaneous Mt. Elgin Ind. Instit. Sundry Appro.	29156 84 11070 13 7571 38 5780 90 4866 67 2721 00 3534 43	364 11	1207 15 3124 35  7400 00 6009 78 			83 03  893 64  2395 21
Total	for the yea iture for the	r e vear		174255 92 \$	\$16.	512 10 640 81 578 28 257 00 597 70

CONFERENCES, &c.	INCOME.	INC.	DEC.	EXPEN.	INC.	DECREASE
Toronto Mission Districts	\$41008 04 4239 48	\$367 15 238 29		\$20711 35 33809 26		\$4112 03 9415 16
Algoma Red River Saskatchewan British Columbia Japan	······ ·····	·····		3955 98 8589 55 5897 90 7634 80 7717 03	\$21 65	853 48 1480 44 1477 80 5625 08
London Montreal Nova Scotia New Bruns. and P.E.I. Newfoundland Graut from England Legacies Miscellaneous Mt. Elgin Ind. Instit Sundry Appro	37789 25 26730 39 11463 66 6831 30 4676 10 4838 90 397 60 3501 00	1133 76 393 53	$\begin{array}{c} 740 & 08 \\ 1104 & 80 \\ 27 & 77 \\ 2324 & 00 \\ 33 & 43 \\ \ldots \\ \end{array}$	10945 15	1483 42 1354 68	3483 36 4492 86 1872 85 1239 78 1316 84
	\$141475 12		\$4523 80	\$150973 24		137 90 \$23232 68
<i>m</i>	\$141475 12 e for the yea iture for the	e year		\$150973 24		

1877-8.

63,093 82 The large deficit on the quadrennial period calls for some

explanation :---

First, in regard to the deficit of 1874-5, amounting to 33,000; this is attributable chiefly to three causes :

1. Expenditure consequent on the Union.

2. Increased expenditure on Mission Districts.

3. Increased Miscellaneous expenditure.

In other words, there was paid to the former "New Connexion" work in excess of income from the same source \$4,957.69, to the Eastern Conferences \$3,881.40, to Mission Districts (chiefly on account of Indian Mission premises, begun one or two years before), \$10,550.72, to the Montreal Conference an increase of \$4,550.41. and on Miscellaneous expenditure (chiefly on account of the Mount Elgin Industrial Institution), \$8,181.69; these items alone aggregate over \$32,000. The balance being accounted for by

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falling off in income and smaller items of expenditure scattered through the various Conferences.

In 1875-6 there was an unusual increase of income from Miscellaneous sources, and a decrease of expenditure, by which the debt was reduced to \$25,338.70.

The next marked increase in the debt was in 1876-7, when it rose to the aggregate of \$53,597.70, or an increase of \$28,257, and occurred in this wise: When the Central Board met in the Autumn of 1876, it was found that the sum at the disposal of the Board would give the Missionaries only 50 per cent. of the grants which the Board thought they should rec-ive. That the Missionaries should suffer this heavy discount was felt to be neither reasonable nor righteous, and hence it was proposed that the Treasurers be authorized to advance an amount sufficient to pay  $66\frac{2}{3}$  per cent. of the appropriations, in the hope that the Church would come to the rescue, and provide the necessary funds. This hope, we regret to say, was not realized: the income instead of advancing, fell from \$162,639.73 to \$145,998.92, a difference of \$16,640.81, chiefly in legacies and other miscellaneous items. This, added to the increased expendi ture authorized, makes the amount of the year's deficiency,

In regard to the further increase of debt in 1877-8, amounting to \$9,498.12, the explanation is simple. In the first place, the income shows a decrease of \$4,523.80; on the other hand, there are certain items of annual expenditure which must be paid, such as Interest, Discounts, cost of publishing Reports, Allowances to School Teachers, Interpreters, &c., &c., but the appropriations made by the Board last autumn, for several of these items were quite below the mark, and hence, in a number of cases, payments had to be made in excess of the sums placed at the disposal of the Committee of Finance; add to this the fact that nothing was left in the hands of the Committee for emergencies arising during the year, and the envire amount of the increase of the debt is fully accounted for.

> JOHN MACDONALD, Treasurer. A. SUTHERLAND, Sec'y-Treasurer.

## III. APPENDIX TO FINANCIAL REPORT.—RECOMMENDATIONS, ETC., OF CENTRAL BOARD.

In view of the large indebtedness which has accumulated during the past quadrennial period, we deem it our duty to call the attention of the General Conference to certain facts in connection with the working of our Missionary organization, and to suggest a course of action that will, in our judgment, not only prevent any further increase of the debt, but also make provision for its extinction at a not very distant day.

In the first place, we call attention to the fact that, under the present system, there is no check whatever to the increase of Missions and of men. Each Annual Conference may go on multiplying its domestic Missions, and increasing the number of its missionaries, without reference to other Conferences, or to the Missionary Board.

In this connection, we call attention to the rapid increase of married men in the mission field. Nor have we reason to believe that the coming term will differ materially, in this respect, from the past. There are now 205 probationers in the ranks of the various Conferences. Within four years a large proportion of these will be married men, and if the past be a reliable index of the future, perhaps three-fifths of those who complete their probation will be claimants on the Mission fund.

Another point deserving attention is the fact that appropriations are made from year to year on the basis of the gross income of the preceding year, and even beyond it. Experience has proved this to be an unsafe basis of calculation, inasmuch as the income from miscellaneous sources is very fluctuating and uncertain.

The course we would suggest is substantially as follows :

1. That such action be taken by the General and Annual Conferences as will check the too rapid increase of Missions and Missionaries.

2. That in making appropriations the Central Board keep within the limits of the income of the preceding year arising from regular sources, viz. : Collections and Subscrip-

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

tions, Juvenile Offerings, the grant from the Indian Department, and, for the present, the grant from the English

3. That the income arising from legacies, and other miscellaneous sources, be left at the disposal of the Committee of Finance, to form a sinking fund for the extinction of the debt. But as some time must elapse before a sinking fund of any great amount can be formed in this way, it is desirable that the General Conference be urgently recommended to adopt some measures for the immediate extinction of a part of the debt.

4. Reduction of expenditure wherever this can be made without impairing efficiency. There are several ways in which it is believed this can be done.

(1) In the publication of the Annual Report and the "Missionary Notices." After the present year the following method might be adopted :- Let the Secretaries publish an Annual Report for each Conference, containing a brief religious summary of our whole Mission work, and the names of subscribers of \$2 and upwards; also, a General Report containing the religious summary, and the aggregate of income from each Circuit and Mission. We recommend that the publication of the "Missionary Notices" be discontinued, and in its place the editors of the Guardian and Wesleyan be directed to place at the disposal of the Missionary Secretaries sufficient space in their columns, for the publication of such matter as is usually published in the "Missionary Notices," and that the editors be instructed not to publish Missionary letters that have not been first examined and approved by the Secretaries. We also recommend that authority be given to publish an illustrated Missionary paper for our Sunday-schools, by which the income from juvenile contributions might be largely

(2) In the matter of special grants : These are of various kinds, for rent, supply in case of sickness, physicians' bills, &c., &c. During the past year over \$10,000 was granted Doubtless, there are some instances where a grant 9\*

for rent is an absolute necessity; but there are large numbers of Missions where such a pressure as would induce the people to perform a long-neglected duty, and provide a house for the Missionary, would be a great blessing to the people themselves, and a great relief to the Missionary treasury. In all such cases notice should be given that after a specified period grants for rent shall cease. To abolish entirely grants in cases of affliction would seem harsh, and we do not recommend it; but we are constrained to say that there is sometimes a tendency to take advantage of this custom, and to throw upon the fund claims, which, though apparently triffing in themselves, yet aggregate a considerable sum year by year. What we would recommend is, that grants be made only in cases where the affliction has been exceptionally severe, and the salary very small.

(3) By stopping grants to all Missions able to meet their own liabilities. A careful examination will show these to be sufficiently numerous to make quite a serious item in the annual grants.

(4) By such efforts to increase the income of the Superannuation Fund, as will relieve the Society from any further necessity of making grants thereto.

5. That the Central Board of Missions shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the officers of the Missionary Society, one minister to be chosen annually by each of the Conferences, one laymen to be chosen annually by the laymen of the Local Missionary Committee and six other persons— one-half of whom shall be laymen, to be appointed by the General Conference, and who shall continue in office for four years.

6. That the Committee of Consultation and Finance shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the officers of the Missionary Society, and nine other members, to be chosen by the General Conference—*four* ministers and *five* laymen, the majority of whom shall be members of the Central Board, who shall provide during the intervals of its annual meetings for any exigencies that may arise.

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## 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

7. This Board, believing the work of the Missionary Office in Toronto can be efficiently done with but one Secretary, strongly recommends t at this reduction be made and that the Accountant be required to give a guarantee either through the Guarantee Society, or that of a personal friend to an amount not less than \_\_\_\_\_

There may possibly be other items in which some retrenchment could be made, but these are sufficient to indicate a line of policy which, if faithfully pursued, will soon relieve us of our financial embarrassments; as proof of this it may be mentioned that in two items alone---rents and Superannuation Fund grant--a sum has been spent in the last four years equal to the entire debt of the Society.

### S. F. HUESTIS,

Sec. pro tem. Central Board.

[The Report was received, and referred to the Committee on Missions.]

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

The inauguration of this Society, by the General Conference of 1874 was an experiment variously received by the ministers and members of our Church. Those who understood fully the importance of the interests which it was intended to promote were perhaps too sanguine of its great Their first year's efforts in placing the claims of success. the Society before the Church made them painfully conscious of the fact that ministers and people required to be roused to a sense of the need and duty of the Church to provide herself with an educated ministry. The sympathy and liberality of the Church were largely pre-occupied by those great religious enterprises for which our Methodism is so justly distinguished. In four years of most unparalleled depression, it was very difficult to maintain, much less to increase, the income of the Church. The local church

building enterprise, commenced in more prosperous times, the great and extending Mission work, the increasing claims on the Superannuated Ministers' Fund, and even the increased claims for ministerial support, arising from the union, were already before our people, and made demands from which their sympathy and support could not be withheld in either justice or propriety. It is not surprising, therefore, that the pressing wants of present work should forestall that which is peculiarly a preparation and building for the future.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, your Society has done not a little for the Church during the past four years. One hundred and thirty-one probationers for our ministry have been appointed to college, where almost all have remained two years, and some a longer time. Of these, sixty-two have attended Victoria College, Cobourg; thirty-five, Mount Allison We-leyan College, Sackville; and thirty-four, the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal. The entire number received into full connexion and ordained during this time, has been one hundred and ninety-nine, showing that about two thirds of those who now enter our ministry receive a college training. This proportion will be somewhat increased by the fact that a number are educated at Victoria College and elsewhere prior to offering themselves as candidates. The exhibit of the past two years, in which the results of the work of the Educational Society have fully shown themselves, will appear still more favourable. Forty-eight young men were this year ordained in the six Conferences, and of these thirty-seven had been students at college. If the work we are now doing could be doubled every person ordained to our ministry would have enjoyed the advantage of at least three years' college training.

The advance made in the four years may be estimated more justly from the funds expended in aiding probationers at College. In 1874 the grants amounted to \$3,200, in 1878 to \$4,500, an increase of forty per cent.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Besides the largely increased amount of Collegiate training afforded to candidates for our ministry by this Society, it has also defrayed the expenses of a very thorough system of examination of all probationers in that work, thus giving an impetus to intellectual preparation which influences every individual offering himself to the holy calling.

The support of the institutions in which our young men are trained has been a prominent feature in the Society's work. Grants have been made for Theological tuition amounting to \$1,400 a year, divided between the Victoria, Mount Allison, and Montreal Schools, Montreal receiving for two years past one-half, Victoria, four hundred, and Mount Allison, three hundred: \$2,7(0 have also been divided each year between Victoria, Mount Allison, and the Manitoba Institute for the support of the Faculties of Arts.

It is unnecessary to say anything of the importance of maintaining our Methodist Colleges in the highest possible efficiency. In these seats of learning we expect not only our ministry, but also a majority of our laity, to be educated. All the reasons which render it expedient that we should maintain two institutions with Faculties of Arts and University powers, to give a superior education to the young men of our Church under the religious influences peculiar to that Church, are absolutely imperative that such education should be inferior to none to be had in the land. If we see not to this our best young men will be lost both to our college and to our Church, and our moral and religious, as well as our social and political, influence be seriously diminished. It is greatly to be desired that either by increased endowments or by annual grants from this Society, the incomes of our two colleges should be increased by at least one-half, when they would be in a position to compete more effectively with the institutions known as non-denominational.

Any person familiar with the internal economy of such institutions will bear testimony that as soon as the course of study is extended to three years, the services of three

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professors in each school, or an equivalent therefor, becomes absolutely necessary. This will involve an outlay of \$6,000, or \$7,000 a year for each school. If our Church would do justice to her work in this direction, she must contemplate an expenditure of not less than \$50,000 a year in the near future. Our present outlay is a little more than half this sum.

The following tabular statements will exhibit-

I. The entire Educational Work of Methodism in the Dominion of Canada.

II. The entire Income and Expenditure of this Society in the four years.

## TABLE I. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

	Value of Prop'y.	In'me.	Exp.	Prof.	štu'ts	Grad- uates.	Lib'ry
Victoria Coll., Cobourg, Arts	\$150,000	\$10573	\$11249	6	133	256	4000
" " Theology.			3100	2	49	39	
" " Law.				4	6	70	
" " Medicine.				5	127	812	
Mt. Allison Wes. Coll., Arts	60,000	6000	6000	1 -	40	61	
" " " Theology.	15,000	1500	1500	51	17		4000
" Male Academy	40,000	5000	5000	6	120		
" Ladies' "	35,000	5000	5 00	8	82		
Wes. Theological Coll, Montreal.	30,000	2500	3800	2	15		2000

Class First—Institutions under the control of the General Conference.

Class Second—Institutions under the patronage of Annual Conferences.

Wes. Female Coll., Hamilton	 	 12	175	133	400
Ontario Ladies' Coll., Whitby	 	 10	110	7	250
Stanstead College	 	 10	149		1000
Meth. Academy, St. John's, Nfld	 	 5	243		

As the financial support of these institutions is entirely provided by the Stockholders, to whom they belong, no financial report is given.

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TABLE

1875---Toronto London Montreal New Bru Nova Sco Newfoun

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METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

TABLE II.— INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE EDUCA-TIONAL SOCIETY, 1874-8.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
1875— Toronto Conference Loudon Montreal New Brunswick Conference. Nova Scotia	26:8 9	1875_ Grants to Students, West Kxaminations Expenses	- 825 00 168 37
Newfoundland "	252 87		77 79
1876— Toronto Conference London " Moutreal " New Brunswick Conference. Nova Sootia " Newfoundland "	2246 33 2457 03 1637 02 388 98 551 00 285 69	1876 Grants to Students, West "East "Vict. Coll., Arts & Theo. "Mt. Allison, " "Montreal Theo. " "Manitoba Institute Examinations	1400 00
1877		Expenses	1172 46
Toronto Conference. London " Montreal " New Brunswick Conference. Nova Scotia " Newfoundland "	2423 19 2720 01 1659 87 598 48 641 65 810 16	1877— Grants to Students, West "East "Vict. Coll., Arts & Theo. "Mt. Allison, "Montreal Theo. " "Manitoba Institute Examinations. Expenses	2836 00 1252 00 2000 00 1100 00 600 00 325 00 456 12
878	1	878	735 62
Montreal " Nova Scotia Conierence New Brunswick " Newfoundland	1860 76 2651 38 1181 78 487 48 521 23 298 00	Expenses Grants to Students, West 'East 'Victoria College Montreal Theol. College Mt. Allieon College	877 67 3579 60 15(8 00 2000 00 700 00 1000 00 173 85

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. Ryerson, Chairman.

N. BURWASH, Secretary.

[The Report was received, and referred to the Committee on Education.]

1878.

## THE GENERAL TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

To cash on hand	\$3,696	85
from London Conference \$2,457 03		
Less Expenses		
	2,082	56
To cash from Toronto		
Less Expenses 303 00		
	1,943	33
To cash from Montreal	1,518	
" Newfoundland	285	69
" Nova Scotia 551 00		
Less Expenses 40 63		
	510	37
To cash from N. B. & P. E. Island 388 98		
Less Expenses 41 16		
	347	82

\$10,384 62

CR.			
By paid Dr. Allison	2,520 0	0	
" Rev. Dr. Douglas	1,867 4	8	
Rev. R. Jones	4,180 0	0	
" Rev. G. Young	120 0	0	
By Interest, Drafts, &c	195 9	7	
By Expenses of Examining Boards	494 5	3	
		- 9,377	98
Balance on hand		. 1,006	64
Audited by J. Lister, Esq., and Rev	. James	Gray.	
To cash on hand		\$1,006	64

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	**	from	London Conference 2,36	7 71
	"		Toronto 2,18	
	"		Montreal 1,504	
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67 71	To Interest, Com. on cheques, &c 211 44
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504 65	Cash from Newfoundland 3,279 52
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504 65 510 10 577 01	298 00

ABSTRACT.

Treasurer's note discounted, 27th Sept ..... \$600 00 7th Oct ..... 700 00 \*\* " 11 2,000 00 9th Oct ..... 11 " .. 16th Oct 1,200 00 11 .. 11 4,500 00 Less cash on hand and in bank ..... 1,220 48

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W. E. SANFORD, Gen. Treasurer.

[Report was adopted.]

## REPORT OF THE SUPERANNUATION FUND BOARD.

The Superannuation Fund Board beg leave to submit the following Report to the General Conference:

The invested capital of the fund is at the present time \$54,790.91.

The annual income for the year closing June, 1878, was \$32,448, being an advance on that of the year immediately preceding, of \$1,160.

During the four years elapsing since the meeting of the last General Conference, the annual income has been as follows :---

For the year ending June, 1875, \$29,708. The London Conference contributed of this sum, \$7,146; Toronto Conference, \$6,738; Montreal Conference, \$5,526; being an increase over the preceding year of \$2,957: this year the Missionary Society contributed for the payment of those chargeable upon that department of the work, \$6,708; and the Book-room, \$1,000.

For the year ending June, 1876, the income was \$30,143, showing an advance beyond that of 1875 of \$1,505, although \$1,708 less was received from the Missionary Society. 1878.]

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METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

London Conference contributed \$7,493; Toronto Conference, \$7,970; Montreal Conference, \$5,453; Missionary Society, \$5,000; Book-Room, \$1,000.

For the year ending June, 1877, the income was \$30,920, presenting an advance of \$961, London Conference contributing \$7,862; Toronto Conference, \$8,206; Montreal Conference, \$5,819; Missionary Society, \$4,750; Book-Room, \$1,000.

For the year ending June, 1878, the income was \$32,448, showing an advance of \$1,160 on the previous year: the London Conference contributing \$8,839; Toronto Conference, \$8,478; Montreal Conference, \$5,730; Missionary Society, \$4,750; Book-Room, \$1,000.

Of this increase, upwards of \$900 is credited to the London Conference; \$200 to the Toronto Conference; while a decrease of less than \$100 is reported from the Montreal Conference; the latter, no doubt, arising from the severe financil pressure felt in unusual severity in a large section, if not n the whole of the connexional territory.

The year's income from all sources during the past year was paid out to 96 superannuated ministers and 51 widows, a total of 147 claimants, as follows, viz. :---

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147 During the four years, two cases of commutation occurred, the one involving an outlay of \$800 and the other of \$900; but neither affecting the income of existing claimants beyond the annual sums these brethren would have received had their relation as superannuated men been continued.

It has been cause of deepest regret that, during each of the past four years, the superannuated ministers and widows were not paid the full amount of their legitimate claims; but that annually a reduction had to be made, -a reduction so large, indeed, as to be in many cases painfully embarrassing to the claimants, and neither satisfactory nor creditable to the contributing Conferences.

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From a variety of causes, undoubtedly, this unfortunate condition of things has arisen. The Board, however, is of opinion that the causes are but temporary in their character and are passing away; and that although it may be still a few years before income and requirement are made to balance, yet the hope is strongly entertained that ere the next meeting of the General Conference such an additional augmentation will have been made to the fund as will enable the treasurers to meet the full claims.

Our people are far from being indifferent to this fund. Now that the long-continued financial pressure is happily being removed, and both city and country growing financially stronger and more hopeful, a systematic and vigorous effort in each Conference, District, and Circuit will unquestionably be productive of a large increase to the fund, designed to sustain a body of men than whom none are more worthy of the Church's gratitude, affection, and liberal support.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Superannuation Fund Board, Montreal, September 7th, 1878.

> Anson Green, Chairman. G. R. SANDERSON, Secretary.

[Report was received, and referred to the Committee on the Superannuation Fund.]

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL TREASURERS OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE CON-TINGENT FUND.

At the l	last Gen	eral Conference the debt on the	Fund was \$3,418 42.
Paid on	debt in	1875	\$1,001 12
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"		1877	596 94
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			\$3,418 42

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Toronto Conference \$2,243 2	PAYMENTS, 1875.
London "	9         Toronto Conference         \$2,539         96           6         London          2,567         85           6         Montreal          1,822         19           7         Paid on Debt          1,822         19
\$8,407 10	\$8,407 10
1876.	1876.
Toronto Conference \$2,210 93 London " . 2,489 57 Montreal " . 1,653 92 Commutation Fund . 2,504 76	Toronto Conference \$2,753 65 London 2,783 87 Montreal 2,783 87
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1877.	\$8,859 18
Balance, \$121.61; Int.,         \$7.30       \$1`8 91         Toronto Conference       2,142 77         London       "       2,400 73         Montreal       "       1,590 88         Commutation Fund       2,191 07	1877. Toronto Conference \$2,792 28 London "
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## COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS.

## ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

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London Conference, "' Balance above Receij	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	\$10,593 89 2,539 96 2,783 87 3,101 75 2,820 76  \$11,274 28

190	JOURNAL OF	F THE		187	8.
Montreal Conference,	1875	\$1,686	36	 \$1,822	19
"	1876	1,653		 1,975	48
**	1877	1,590		 1,847	97
**	1878	1,485	27	 1,671	<b>24</b>
Balance above Receip	ots	900	<b>45</b>	 	
		\$7,316	88	\$7,316	88
The three Conference	es. 1875	\$6,232	81	 \$6.930	00
	1876			 7,513	00
	1877	6 134	38	7,742	00
**	1878	6,118	59	 7,000	00
Balance above Receip		4,344		 ••	
		\$29,185	00	\$29,185	00

### QUADRENNIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
	To Conferences       \$29,185       00         On Debt       3,418       42         On Interest       677       10         Miscellaneous       330       12         Balance on hand       365       09
\$34,352 76	\$34,352 76

The above is the total amount that passed through the hands of the Treasurers during the Quadrennial.

Toronto Conference . \$2,138 46   Toronto Conference \$2,508 00
London " 2,494 86 London " 2,820 76
Montreal 1,485 27 Montreal 1,671 24
Commutation Fund 2,513 53 Interest and Expenses 69 96
Paid on Debt 820 04
Interest on N. C. Debt 377 03
Balance on hand 305 09
\$8,632 12 \$8,632 12

[Report was adopted.]

JAMES GRAY, Gen. Treasurer.

1878.

## REPOI

Amount Amount

Municip: Secured Wesleyar Bank of

Amou Fund du Paid to T "

Signed John Mac

[Report

## REPORT

The We senting to feel that the of a depart secondary religious ectioned that extensively tianity and Christian 1 books, and counteracting

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\$1,822 1,975 1,847 1,671	48 97
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	2,820 76	
	1,671 24	
ses	69 96	
	820 04	
$\mathbf{ebt}$	377 03	
	365 09	

\$8,632 12 Treasurer.

## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

## REPORT OF THE COMMUTATION INVESTMENT FUND.

Amount received from D	
Amount received from English grant \$33,921 61 Amount gained by Investments 1,610 01	
Municipal Debentures.\$33Secured by Mortgage\$24,000 00Wesleyan Missionary Society4,600 00Bank of Commerce Stock3,200 00	
Amount of Interest paid Treasurer of the Cont Fund during the last four years :	5,531 62 tingent

66	66	1876	7
66	66	1876 2,504 7	6
66		2101 -	7
		1878 2,513 5.	3
he and			- :

Signed on behalf of the Rev. Anson Green, D.D., and John Macdonald, *Treasurers*.

[Report was adopted.]

JAMES GRAY, Secretary.

## REPORT OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Western Section of the Book Committee, in presenting to the General Conference their Quadrennial Report, feel that they are bringing before the Conference the review of a department of our Church work which occupies no secondary place among the agencies for the moral and religious education of the people. It can hardly be questioned that, at the present time, when the press is so extensively employed to propagate corrupt forms of Christianity and open infidelity, the circulation of a healthy Christian literature, in the form of religious newspapers, books, and periodicals, has become a powerful means of counteracting error and disseminating truth, which cannot

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1878.

be neglected by any branch of the Church without serious loss to its influence.

ANALYSIS of the FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF BALANCE SHEET of the Methodist Book Room, Toronto, for the year ending 31st MARCH, 1878, as compared with the year ending 31st MARCH, 1874, both as modified by the report of the Valuators-

	1878.		1874.	INCREASE.	DEC.
UNAVAILABLE ASSETS :					
Consisting of Real Estate and Build-	<b>0</b> 05070	71	40000 10	40001 50	
ings	\$25070		\$22089 18		
Furniture, Machinery, &c	28525	26	17923 63	10601 63	
	\$53595	97	\$40012 81	\$13583 16	
AVAILABLE ASSETS :					
Books and Stationery	31933	93	22452 84	9481 09	
Cash on hand	365	17	371 06		\$5 89
Bills Receivable	3219		3377 93		158 01
	45541	-			
Outstanding Debts					
Paper for Printing, &c	2441		2088 55		
Montreal Book Room	12110	12		12110 12	
Total	\$95612	44	\$55405 71	\$10370 63	\$163 90
Total Assets	\$149208	41	\$95418 52	\$53789 89	

LIABILITIES of the METHODIST BOOK ROOM for the year ending 31st MARCH, 1878, as compared with the year ending 31st Максн, 1874-

PERMANENT LOANS: Consisting of as follows: From Super- annuated M. Fund From Victoria College	\$7743 3909		\$5500 3909		\$2243		\$0 24
Total	\$11652	32	\$9409	56	\$2243	00	\$0 24
Accounts subject to early payment, as follows:	10004	07	14705		1050	00	_
Due Periodical Subscribers	19094		14735		4358	1	
" Bills payable	21093		9773				
" Sundry Creditors	18302	81	6223	86	12078	95	
Total	\$58490	34	\$30732	74	\$27757	60	
Total Liabilities	\$70142	66	\$40142	30	\$30000	36	

Deducting the Liabilities, \$58,490.38, from Available Assets, \$95,612.44, the Book Room has an active capital of \$37,122.10, on which it pays interest.

On the other hand, taking Total Liabilities from the

## 1878.

Total Ass Liabilities 31st Marc 1874-1 1878—I

COMPARATIV rennial p

GROSS PROFITS :

- 1 Goods .... 2 Printing Off
- 8 Christian G
- 4 S. S. Advoca 5 S. S. Banner
- 6 Methodist M
- 7 Bindery .... 8 Rent .
- 9 Daily Record
- 10 Bad Debts -11 Donation on

#### Total ....

Increase.

#### EXPENSES :

- 1 Salaries..... 2 Trade Charge
- 3 Interest ...... Paid from '70

'74

- 4 Insurance ...
- 5 Daily Recorde 6 Bad Debts ....

Total .....

#### Increase ...

NET PROFITS ..... From which valu deduct .....

Total .....

APPROPRIATIONS BY President's Assist Delegation ..... Superannuated M President's Salary S. S. Agent.....

> Total .... Added to Ca

1878.]

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ET of the t MARCH, 874, both

Е.	DEC.
53 63	
16	
09 24 18 12	\$5 89 158 01
63	\$163 90
89	

ar ending ding 31st

00	\$0 24
00	\$0 24
93	
72	
95	
60	
36	

Available e capital

from the

## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Total Assets, there will be a balance of Assets over Liabilities of \$79,065.75, an increase as compared with 31st March, 1874, of \$23,789.53.

1874—Percentage of Liabilities to Assets, 42%. 1878—Percentage of Liabilities to Assets, 47%.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of PROFITS AND EXPENSES for the quadrennial periods ending 1874 and 1878-

	1878.	1874.	INCREASE	. DEC.
GROSS PROFITS :				
1 Goods 2 Printing Office	\$47486	19 010000		1
2 Printing Office	11509		01 \$400 1	1
8 Christian Guardian 4 S. S. Advocate	1000	0001	4622 5	
4 S. S. Advocate	18396	20/00 /	20	\$1189 4
5 S. S. Banner. 6 Methodist Magazine	419*	-001 2	1347 0	91
6 Methodist Magazine 7 Bindery	3597	95 1276 8	3 2321 1	
7 Bindery 8 Rent	93 8	33	acer T	
8 Rent 9 Daily Recorder	4941 §	3349 0	93 8	
9 Daily Recorder. 10 Bad Debts - collected	•• 2393	9 1723 9	1.01 9	
10 Bad Debts - collected	117 3		000 00	
10 Bad Debts – collected 11 Donation on annuity	34 9		1 10	
on annulty				
Total		800 0		800 00
		3 \$83698 4	\$11062 09	\$1989 45
Increase			\$9072 64	
EXPENSES :			40012 04	
1 Salaries		1		
2 Trade Charges 3 Interest	45382 90	27649 74	17733 16	
3 Interest Paid from '70 to '74 \$0 400 to	8672 59	5502 30		
Paid from '70 to '74, \$9,428 48	4159 00			
" "74 to "79 10,000 48	1	0010 09		1657 09
4 Insurance	16	10000		
4 Insurance 5 Daily Recorder 6 Bad Debts	1460 00	C10 00		
6 Bad Debts		813 00	647 00	
6 Bad Debts	94 97	10 50		10 50
	01 01		94 97	
Total	\$59769 46	00000		
Increase	400108 40	\$39791 63	\$21645 42	1667 59
Increase			and the second second second	
ET PROFITS			\$19977 83	
ET PROFITS. From which valuators by their report deduct	33001 67	43906 86		0005 10
deduct deduct	0010		1	0905 19
	6212 14	1635 49	4576 65	
Total	\$26789 53			
	4-0108 03	\$42271 37	\$1576 65 14	5481 84
PROPRIATIONS BY COMMITTEE :				
President's Assistant		Land Street	CTALL SAN	
Delegation		468 75		468 75
Superannuated M. Fund President's Salary		300 00		200 00
President's Salary	3000 00		3000 00	300 00
S. S. Agent		2100 00		100 00
		298 06		100 00
Total				298 06
Added to Capital	\$3000 00	\$3166 81		
	\$23759 53 \$	39104 56		166 81

Term Term INCREASE. DEC. SALES. ending ending 1874. 1878. \$92425 85 \$77997 24 \$14428 61 Cash Sales... 97606 44 77891 61 19714 83 Credit Sales ..... ... \$34143 44 \$190032 20 \$155888 85 Total Sales..... . . . The Gross Profits in the Goods Depart-47486 12 47086 01 400 11 ment are as follows ..... ....

#### SALES OF GOODS.

It will be seen that though there is an increase of sales of goods for the term ending 1878 of \$34,143.44 over the previous term, yet the increase of gross profit in this department is only \$400.11.

This is accounted for, first, in the fact that the sales include \$18,000 sent to Montreal without profit. Second, goods generally were sold at a smaller percentage of profit, notably hymn books, the profits on which were seriously affected by the general expectation of a new hymn book; Sabbath-school libraries, in which a large business has been done at a minimum of profit; and subscription Bibles, a large stock of which was held when the depressed state of trade began to be felt, and which, with many other classes of goods, had to be sold at cost.

### THE "CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS."

This, the chief periodical of the Church, is now in the forty-ninth year of its history; and its circulation is larger than at any previous period, having now a weekly circulation of 10,157.

The total circulation for the term ending 1878 was 40,506, being an increase over the preceding term of 6,476. The total number of single copies issued for the period is 2,134,620.

The Gross Profits for the term are	\$18,396	75	
For the term ending 1874 they were	19,586	20	
Showing a decrease of	\$1,189	45	

#### \_878.]

1878.

This deci Since th 1875, posta with the re aggregate to on new subagents. The paper.

has largely valuable he enlarged one Its present n for the term ending 1874. The numb 207,604.

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retains its hol which is semifor the quadre the previous single copies for These period

> The Gross I For the terr

The increas periodicals is rapid developm The gross prof \$4,128.75, in t \$7,796.90 in \$3,668.15. Th

## DEC. 61 83 44 11 ....

of sales over the s depart-

the sales Second, of profit, seriously n book; has been Bibles, a state of r classes

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878 was of 6,476. period is

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

This decrease is accounted for thus :----

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Since the new postal law came into force in October, 1875, postage has been paid on the Guardian, in accordance with the resolution of your Committee, amounting in the aggregate to \$1,582.38, and a commission of 25 per cent. on new subscribers, and 5 per cent. on renewals allowed to This, of course, has lessened the profits of the paper.

## "THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL BANNER"

has largely increased its circulation, and is proving a valuable help to Sabbath-school workers. enlarged one-fourth in size and greatly improved in character. Its present monthly circulation is 4,767, and its circulation for the term, 16,494—an increase of 6,329 over the term

The number of single copies issued for the term is 207,604.

The Gross Profits for the term are..... \$3,597 95 For the term ending in 1874 they were..... 1,276 83 An increase of ..... \$2,321 12

# "THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL ADVOCATE."

retains its hold on the favour of the people. Its circulation, which is semi-monthly, is now 13,336. The total circulation for the quadrennial term is 49,682, which is an increase over the previous four years of 4,300. The total number of single copies for the term is 1,187,592.

These periodicals are all now sent post-free. The Gross Profits f.

for the term	ending	1874 th	m are ey were	 \$4,198 2,851	
	A				

An increase of ..... \$1,347 03

The increase in the circulation of the Sunday-school periodicals is very gratifying, and is an evidence of the rapid development of this department of our Church work. The gross profits of these periodicals have advanced from \$4,128.75, in the four years ending March 31st, 1874, to \$7,796.90 in the succeeding four years—an increase of \$3,668.15. This is exclusive of the issue of Berean Leaves,

1878.

sold as "goods." The circulation of these has advanced in four years from 22,000 per month to 58,000 per month. The total issue of these Leaves during the last four years has been 2,008,000 copies.

The aggregate of all the Sunday-school periodicals issued by the Western Book Room during the last quadrennial period is 3,403,196; but the moral benefit of this vast diffusion of direct religious teaching no figures can represent.

### "THE METHODIST MAGAZINE,"

the publication of which was commenced by the order of the General Conference, was first issued in January, 1875. It has now attained a circulation of 2,388, being an increase of 985 as compared with the previous year. The whole number of single copies which have been issued is 68,241; 340 bound volumes have also been sold as "goods." The difficulties incident to the beginning of a new enterprise of this character, which were increased by the monetary stringency of the times, have been successfully overcome, and it gives promise of a vigorous career. To its credit must be placed the cost—which has been considerable—of the amalgamation with *Earnest Christianity*, a previouslyexisting periodical. As the Magazine began in 1875, it has not yet completed its fourth year. The profits of the recent large increase are not therefore included in this report.

It will be borne in mind that in these statements respecting the periodicals, gross profits only are represented. No charge has been made against them for Editors' or clerks' salaries, or for any proportion of the salaries of the Book Steward or book-keepers, or of insurance, &c., which are necessarily spread over the whole business.

The following memorandum will, however, give an approximate idea of the net profits of the periodicals for the period.

Christian Guardian—Gross Profits	)	75	
u quarter Book Steward's Salary 2,000 00		00	
Net Profit	\$3,666	75	

1878.]

S. S. Adve S. S. Bann Meth. Ma

> Less I " C " of

Profit for them interes term.

The General Western Seconfer with 1 and right of in future the Section of the Steward, in and transferr lished the padiscontinued.

has been lar; addition of r \$10,000.

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order of cy, 1875. increase he whole 68,241; ls." The erprise of monetary overcome, its credit rable—of reviously-75, it has he recent ort.

nents reoresented. or clerks' the Book which are

give an dicals for

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4,730 00

3,666 75

## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

S. S. Advocate—Gross Profits S. S. Banner— Meth. Magazine—	93 85		
Less Editor's Salary " Clerk's " " one-eighth Book Steward's Sal	\$7,100 00 1,200 00 500 00		75
		\$8,800	00
Net Loss		\$909	25

Profit for the four periodicals without charging against them interest, insurance, &c., \$2,757.50 for the quadrennial term.

## "THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST."

The General Conference having recommended that "the Western Section of the Book Committee be directed to confer with Bro. Eby, with a view of transferring the plant and right of the *Evangelist* to the Book Concern, and that in future the paper might be published as the Western Section of the Book Committee may decide;" the Book-Steward, in compliance with the same, purchased the plant and transferred it to the Toronto Book Concern, and published the paper until the editorial department of it was discontinued. This transaction involved a loss of \$813.10.

## THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT

has been largely increased in its working power, by an addition of machinery and type, to the amount of over \$10,000.

It has yielded a gross profit for the term of Against the amount for the previous term of	6,887	93 37
Which gives an increase of	\$4,622	56

#### THE BINDERY

Has yielded a gross profit for the term of Against the amount for the previous term of	3,349		
Increase of	\$1,591	95	

1878.

The total number of books and pamphlets sold during the four years ending 31st March, 1878, is 904,301, divided as follows :---

Our own manufacture	608,410
Imported direct	233,735
Bought in Canada	62,156

The total quantity of paper used during the four years ending 31st March, 1878, is 7,839 reams, used as follows :----

Books, Pamphlets, &c	2,821 Reams.
Guardian	3.241 "
S. S. Advocate	799 "
M. Magazine	525 "
S. S. Banner	453 "

There have been published during the quadrennial term over fifty different works, the whole number of volumes of which is 770,336.

#### LIABILITIES.

The business of the quadrennial period has resulted in an addition to the capital of \$22,789.53, and an increase to the indebtedness of \$30,000; but of this indebtedness, \$19,094.37 is due to the subscribers to periodicals, which will be discharged without any other payment of money than that which is involved in the continued issue and delivery of these periodicals. There is also an increase in the outstanding indebtedness to the establishment—of sundries, \$18,000, the Montreal Branch, \$12,110.12, and an increase to the stock of books and stationery of \$10,000 =\$40,110.12.

#### PROFITS.

It will be observed that the gross profits on the whole business, for the term ending 1878, shew an increase of \$9,072.64 over those of the previous term, while the net profits are less by the sum of \$15,481.84.

Among the leading items which go to account for this are the following :—

Increase of the editorial staff by appointments of the General Conference; advance in salaries of employees; a

#### 1878.]

larger an valuators *Guardian* and an Committe Total r

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The new were ver amounted 139.06. Nothing 1 To compar prosperity

Commen pressure u and books and their s It has only sales have ment of th cannot be large porti been drawn

On the w have been Christian li the Divine Room has d annuated M increased by 1874 to \$79

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

larger amount deducted from the assets by the quadrennial valuators of 1878 than in 1874; loss of postage on the *Guardian*; interest on the stock of the Montreal branch; and an increase in the travelling expenses of the Book Committee, owing to its enlargement.

Total net profits for the term ending 1878, \$26,789.53.

In considering the total net profits of the business for the quadrennial term, as compared with those of the previous one ending in 1874, there need be no surprise that they are less by \$15,481.84, or an average annual diminution for the term of \$3,870.46.

The net profits of the quadrennial period ending 1874 were very large; and especially the last year, which amounted to \$15,504.21, and the preceding year to \$10,-139.06. These two years' net profits were \$25,643.27. Nothing like these amounts had ever been reached before. To compare the last quadrennial period with these years of prosperity must be to its apparent disadvantage.

Commercial men know well how severe has been the pressure upon trade. Retrenchment begins with luxuries, and books and periodicals are generally regarded as such, and their sales, consequently, are among the first to fall off. It has only been by selling at a very small advance that the sales have been kept up. However necessary the establishment of the Montreal branch may have been considered, it cannot be forgotten that it has taken from this House a large portion of the territory from which its profits had been drawn.

On the whole, your Committee consider that the results have been very gratifying. A very large quantity of sound Christian literature has been circulated, which must, with the Divine blessing, be productive of great good. The Book Room has during the term contributed \$3,000 to the Superannuated Ministers' Fund, while the net capital has been increased by the operations of the term from \$55,276.22 in 1874 to \$79,065.75 in 1878.

The buildings, machinery, and plant are now in a good state of repair. New machinery has been added, and the concern, having passed safely through the difficulties of the

1878.

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our years ollows :—

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changes which have been made, and of the great stringency of the period, will be in a good position to do a large and profitable business when trade shall be relieved by the return of better times.

## REPORT OF THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

It is with great satisfaction the Committee have to report that during a period of almost unprecedented depression in business circles, there has been continued increase during the four years. From \$27,000, the amount of sales during the period 1870 to 1874, the business has gone up to \$67,000, an increase for the quadrennial period, 1874 to 1878, of nearly 250 per cent.

The profits of the Concern, during the past four years, have amounted to nearly \$9,000; and but for the severe stringency of the money market even this result would have been very largely exceeded. The one serious difficulty of the Concern, and that which has been felt through every transaction, has been the want of capital. Four years ago we were scarcely solvent; but, as a first claim upon the profits, a debt of \$5,000, advanced by ministers in previous years, to keep the Book-room in existence, was assumed, and had to be dealt with in the administration of its financial interests.

At the present time, however, as the result of four years' successful operation, after providing for all liabilities, including a balance still due upon the \$5,000, we have the satisfaction of reporting a surplus sufficient, nearly, to cover all the present stock—the retail value of which is upwards of \$10,000.

Four years ago we had no printing establishment. The *Wesleyan*, at great inconvenience, and sometimes at considerable loss, was printed by contract. Now we have an office fitted up with machinery, type, and all necessary appliances for the printing of the paper, and also book and

### 1878.]

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

pamphlet publications. The execution of the book work has been of a character to command a recognition, which has been freely accorded, and to establish a deserved reputa-The plant of the printing establishment is valued at about \$3,000, the value of the work done during the past year was nearly \$6,000, and the profits of this department are nearly \$1,000 a year.

Four years ago the Eastern Establishment was carried on by the labours of only two men; but such has been the growth of the Concern, from thirteen to sixteen are now constantly employed on the premises.

The Committee think it but just and right that these facts should be placed prominently and distinctly before the General Conference; and, in accordance therewith, would recommend that, in the allotment of General Conference printing and patronage, the Eastern establishment should

The Wesleyan, which has been conducted with sustained efficiency, like every other Eastern enterprise has been usbjected to the ordeal of financial stringency, but still it retains a steady circulation of about 3,000 subscribers.

It will yet require sometime to bring up the Concern to the vantage ground of turning its profits to any other source than its own annual demands. The heavy interest account which, with capital, might be altogether saved, when added to the substantial advantages of a ready-money operation, must be set down at not less than \$1,000 a year. actual capital of the Eastern department of the Book-room The is not more than one-fourth of the amount really involved in its outlay; and the difficulty of conducting the business to advantage is frequently most pressing and perplexing.

The Committee have only to say in conclusion that in the work of circulating wholesome and approved literature, the main object to be constantly kept in view, an indispensable service has been rendered to the Church. It is also earnestly hoped that between the two branches of the General Conference Book Concern, there may be, in printing, publication, and sales, such an adjustment of advantages

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1878.

as shall materially promote the prosperity of the Eastern section.

The following motions were unanimously adopted :- -

1st. That in view of the very gratifying success which has resulted from extension of the Book-room department of the Concern, and believing that if additional interest were thrown into the *Wesleyan*, the same kind of results might be anticipated, we recommend to the Committee and General Conference the appointment of an Editor, as well as Book Steward, to the Eastern section of the Book-room Concern.

2nd. We recommend that the Eastern section of the Book Committee be authorized to adopt such measures and methods of business extension, especially with reference to the establishment of one or more branches, as in its judgment may be deemed most expedient.

JOHN LATHERN, Secretary.

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

The Standing Committee on Church Property, appointed by the last General Conference, beg leave to report as follows :---

1. Your Committee having received power from the last General Conference to act after the close of the said Conference, proceeded to prepare and submit to the several Legislatures of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and British Columbia, Acts of Parliament, for the purpose of vesting in the Methodist Church of Canada the property formerly owned or held in trust for the several Churches and bodies that formed the united Church; such Acts of Parliament were passed and have become law.

2. Your Committee also prepared and forwarded to Manitoba and Bermuda the materials for similar legislation

### 1878.]

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3. It is appointed Parliamen W. N. E Tho has I Winnipeg

4. It is mittee be a legislation Shannon, o the Nova Secretary o power to en necessary. All whic

#### REPORT

The Board to the Gene the Parliame for the Colle Conference, e Clerical Dire Conference.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

in the Province of Manitoba and the Bermuda Islands, but they regret that they cannot yet report the adoption of such legislation in those localities.

3. It is recommended that the following Committee be appointed to procure for our Church the requisite Act of Parliament in the Province of Manitoba, viz. —The Hon. W. N. Kennedy, the Rev. John F. German, M.A., Mr. Thomas Nixon, and Mr. S. C. Biggs, all of the City of Winnipeg.

4. It is further recommended that the following Committee be appointed for the purpose of securing the necessary legislation in the Bermuda Islands, viz. :—The Hon. S. L. Shannon, of Halifax; the Rev. James Taylor, President of the Nova Scotia Conference; and the Rev. S. F. Huestis, Secretary of that Conference; and that this Committee have power to employ such assistance in the Bermudas as may be necessary.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Anson Green, Chairman. S. J. Jones, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE ONTARIO LADIES' COLLEGE.

The Board of  $C_{-}$  rectors have great satisfaction in reporting to the General  $C_{-}$  frence that during the last session of the Parliament of  $C_{-}$  rio they obtained an amended Charter for the College, in harmony with the wishes of the General Conference, empowering the said Conference to appoint seven Clerical Directors, and also extending the powers of the said Conference.

The addition to our buildings is now complete. The building will accommodate about one hundred and fifty pupils, and is one of the finest College properties in the Dominion as to situation and extent of buildings and grounds, having originally cost over \$110,000, and affording

unsurpassed advantages for the health and education of the young ladies.

With thanks for the co-operation of Conference, we have now entered for this term above one hundred pupils at the commencement, with the prospect of an increase in numbers.

With prudent management of the Governor and officers in charge, the institution cannot help but prove a financial success.

Your directors hereby request the Conference to appoint the following seven ministers as directors of the College, as required by law, namely:—The Revs. J. Shaw, C. Shaw, George Leach, D. C. McDowell, E. H. Dewart, W. H. Laird, and Jonathan E. Betts.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES HOLDEN, President. JOHN RICE, Secretary.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.

The Board of Victoria College beg leave to present a Report of the educational work and general state of the institution during the past four years.

The following table will show the attendance and degrees conferred for each year since 1874 :---

		ATTE	NDAN	ICE.					GRA	DUA	res.		
Year.	Arts.	Medicine.	Theology.	Law.	Science.	Total.	Year.	Arts.	Medicine.	Theology.	Law.	Science.	Total.
1875	87	99	55	8	2 251		1875	16	37	2	1		56
1876	88	87	43	7	2	227	1876	13	30		2	1	46
1877	86	117	47	7	6	258	1877	14	25	10			49
1878	128	127	49	6	9	319	1878	17	31	3	2	1	54
		1						60	123	15	5	2	205

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The entire number of degrees conferred during the past four years is therefore 205, of which none are honorary degrees except six in Divinity, and one in Law. No honorary degrees in Arts are conferred by Victoria University.

The number of graduates in the University since its establishment is as follows :---

Arts and Divinity	2	še	ei	e	n	C	е,		•	•		•	•			•												255
Divinity Law	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		• •	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				29
Law Medicine		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		70
		-	-		Ĩ	î	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	• •	•	•	•	•	841
Ma	k	i	n	g	é	a	t	0	t	a	1	0	f	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				1195

Since the General Conference of 1874, a new building for scientific purposes has been erected at a cost of some \$20,000, this sum having been specially contributed for that object by the citizens of Cobourg and other friends of the University. The departments of natural and experimental science, together with that of mathematics and astronomy, are thus more suitably provided for, and greatly improved facilities afforded for instruction in these important subjects. Authority having been given to Dr. Haanel, the Professor of Chemistry and Physics, to proceed to Europe for additional apparatus to the amount of \$2,500, that sum has been economically and judiciously expended in purchases from the best manufacturers in Paris, London, and different parts of Germany.

The building formerly used by the Medical Department, in Toronto, has been advantageously disposed of to the Toronto School of Medicine, and that efficient and popular school is now affiliated to Victoria University. A Board of Examiners has also been appointed, on the recommendation of which students of other Schools may also be admitted to degrees in Medicine. The French School of Medicine and Surgery, in Montreal, for many years affiliated to the University, still retains the same relation, and is conducted with increasing success, although it has suffered a severe loss recently in the death of Dr. Hector Peltier, one of the oldest and most distinguished of the Professors of the School.

Of the operations of the Theological Faculty of the University, the following detailed account, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology, is herewith presented :---

#### FACULTY OF THEOLOGY.

"This department of the work of the University was commenced in the year 1871, when a course of study in theology was prescribed, and the duty of instruction in the various subjects assigned to the professors in the Faculty of Aris. In the year 1873 the department was reconstructed and a Faculty of Theology was organized.

"During the seven years which have since elapsed, one hundred and sixty-two students have pursued a course of study with a view to the Christian ministry. As the average time of attendance has been a little under two years, the average annual attendance has been forty-one, but for the last four years forty-eight, and last year fortynine. Of this entire number of students, one hundred and twelve have been received into the ministry of the Methodist Church of Canada, either before or since their attendance at College, being an average class of sixteen each year. We may safely say that no other institution in the Dominion has done as much toward replenishing the ranks of the ministry of the Church to which it belongs, though the comparison would not be so much in our favour as to length of time spent in preparation. Nine of our students have entered the ministry in other branches of the Christian Church, and a large number are active local preachers in our own Church, though a few have fallen away.

"The students accepted or offering themselves for the ministry in our Church have been examined each year by a Board appointed by the Annual Conferences concerned, and, judging from the certificates awarded, the results have been satisfactory. If this Board held office for a term of four years, the arrangement of their work would be considerably facilitated.

"It is greatly to be desired that the time of attendance should be extended to three years, and that more adequate

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preparation should be had, especially for exceptical studies. Any legislation of the General Conference tending to this would benefit both students and College.

"Another pressing want of the department is a more adequate provision for instruction. Classes are at present maintained in Apologetics, Systematic Theology, Exegesis of the Old and New Testament, Biblical and Ecclesiastical History, Biblical Introduction, History of Doctrine, Church Polity, Homiletics, and Pastoral Theology. tended curriculum is maintained by assigning about one-But this exhalf of the work to the Professors in the Faculty of Arts, and by the system of alternate classes. The work done by the Professors in Arts is largely extra work, taxing severely their time and strength, and necessitating the employment of an assistant teacher in classics. The system of alternate classes, by which each Professor extends his course of lectures over two years, and lectures to the classes of both years together, is also undesirable, as preventing a proper classification of students, and further, as requiring each Professor to cover a field too extensive to permit that perfect investigation of his subject necessary to the highest

"These difficulties would be obviated if a Faculty of Theology could be appointed entirely separate in *personnel* from the Faculty of Arts, and consisting of at least three Professors. To these could be assigned respectively the departments of Theology, Exegesis, and History, with the minor subjects naturally attached. The financial provision for this extension must be considered by the proper authorities; but from the standpoint of your teachers, it is essential to that excellence which Methodism expects from all her institutions.

"In conclusion, we may add that in the effort to attain intellectual culture, personal and practical religion have not been neglected. Our theological students all meet in class. The weekly prayer-meeting and monthly fellowship-meeting are maintained and well attended, and are often means of manifest grace. The students exercise their gifts in preaching in the goal, in the suburbs of the town, and on the ad-

joining circuits, as well as in the pulpit of the town itself; and many of them spend the Sabbath afternoon in giving instruction to the children of the poor in their cottages, and in visiting the sick. By these various means we believe that the spirit and power of their Divine calling is maintained, and that they leave College better fitted in all respects for their life-work. In seeking to promote this end, the Faculty have been greatly assisted by the noble spirit and example of many of the young men themselves. They have entered College resolved that there, as on the circuits, they would work for Christ, and they have been made a blessing to their fellow-students and to all their associates.

"We would also record our gratitude to Divine Providence, that in seven years no student in theology has died, and that the health of all has been uniformly good, except from causes existing prior to their entering College."

In addition to the above statements from Prof. Burwash, it may be mentioned that the association of a theological department with the University is of much service in helping to keep alive a wholesome religious influence among the students of the other departments, while, on the other hand, very great advantages result to the students in theology from their access to the lectures given in science and literature by the several Professors of the University. A strong desire is manifested by the theological students to attend these lectures. A special course in Arts and Theology has also been laid down for those able to avail themselves of it. By these different courses of study both Faculties have endeavoured, as far as possible, to meet the varying wants of the candidates sent by the Conferences for training, but this work would be greatly facilitated if the authorities of the Church could enforce a somewhat higher standard for the admission of preachers on trial.

In the Faculty of Law no lectures are delivered, but a course of reading is prescribed and degrees in Law are conferred on examination. The course for the Bachelor's degree has been recently modified by the introduction of some elective or optional subjects, thus adapting the course both to professional and non-professional students. A cur-

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

riculum has also been laid down for the degree of Doctor of Laws, and several candidates have already entered their names for examination. The thanks of the friends of the University are due to several legal gentlemen who, for some years past, have kindly acted as examiners without remuneration, amongst whom special mention may be made of Messrs. Wm. Kerr, M.A., Q.C., M.P.; B. M. Britton, M.A., Q.C.; J. J. Maclaren, M.A., LL.B.; and His Honor Judge Dumble, M.A., LL.B.

The financial circumstances of the University will be fully placed before the Conference in the Reports of the Treasurers. From those Reports it will be seen that the endowment now actually secured amounts to about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, including the endowment of the Theological department. To the income from this source is to be added the fees received from students, the graduation fees, the aid afforded by the Educational Society, and some other smaller sums, making a total for the last academic year of \$14,349. Some eighteen hundred dollars of this being required to meet the interest on the debt, there remains about \$12,-500 to carry on the operations of the University, including the two departments of Arts and Theology. In both these departments it would, no doubt, be desirable to appoint additional Professors, and also to increase the salaries of the professors now employed, but for these improvements it will probably be necessary to wait until some reduction has been made of the debt which has accumulated.

The scholarship system which was adopted in 1851 has, for over twenty-five years, deprived the University of any considerable receipts from tuition fees, but that system having now come to an end, something more may be expected from the fees, although the offer of free or very low tuition in other Universities will doubtless prevent any very large addition from this source. The life and growth of the University must chiefly depend, in the future as in the past, upon the liberality of the Methodist Church, and no pains have been spared, during the past four years, to present the claims of the institution to the Methodist people of Ontario and Quebec. The indefatigable Agent, the Rev. Joshua H.

Johnson, M.A., has, during the five years of his agency, secured subscriptions to the amount of \$58,000 for the endowment, of which \$36,702 has been collected in cash and \$4,500 in notes. He has also obtained a subscription of \$21,000 for Faraday Hall, the greater part of which has been paid as it fell due. The work of increasing the endowment is still being prosecuted, and, with a change in the times, may, it is hoped, be brought up to the \$200,000 proposed at the commencement of the effort.

The college authorities have felt the importance of keeping the University free of debt, and with this view, have practised careful economy in the yearly expenditures, even to the neglect of some greatly needed repairs on the college buildings, but there is a certain minimum outlay without which it is impossible to carry on a higher seminary of learning, nor is it reasonable to expect the attendance of students unless the institution be made to keep pace with the progress of the country and the advantages afforded by rival Universities. In all the improvements of the past four years, the Board have done nothing but what they deemed indispensable to the efficiency and good standing of the institution entrusted to their care. The large increase in the matriculating classes, with other proofs of public confidence, appear to justify the policy of the Board, and afford good hopes for the future. It is highly gratifying to the Board, as it must be to the General Conference, to know that the financial resources of the University, however inadequate, are nevertheless much greater than at any former period, while the attendance of students, especially in Arts and Theology, has also increased.

By order and on behalf of the Board.

S. S. NELLES, President.

Victoria University, Cobourg, Sept., 1878.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# REPORT OF THE WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The Wesleyan Theological College was founded in the year 1873, with the object of aiding, in general, in training candidates for the ministry, and more particularly, in educating young men for the French mission work, and of giving greater prominence to the educational interests of Methodism in the Province of Quebec. All of these objects have been attained with some success. It has been proved that this Institution is capable of exercising a great influence for Methodism and for Christian education in this part of As the Institution is strengthened by increased appliances for usefulness, and becomes perfected in its equipment, it must certainly be a great power for good and a prominent witness for the truth. It is established in a centre of population where we have to contend, not only with the gigantic superstitions of Romanism, but also with the insidious influences of latitudinarianism. The conviction is becoming deeper among the friends of this College, that, in opposing both of these forms of error, this Institution has before it a great field of usefulness; that a Methodist College right here in the commercial metropolis of the Dominion, teaching Methodist theology, and surrounded by Methodist

influences, must do much to further the cause of Christianity. As regards the training of candidates for the French missionary work, the number who have attended our classes in this department is limited to three, but they have been sufficient to illustrate both the need of such an Institution and what a mighty impulse might be given to our French missionary work by the agency of education, if the Institution were established upon a satisfactory financial basis. The existence in this city of the Presbyterian Theological College with more than twenty French students, and with separate instruction in French in Homiletics, etc., is, to our Presbyterian brethren, certainly a great credit. That the Methodist Church of Canada, with its vast numbers, wealth, and influence, is without an equally efficient Institution is to us

a matter of deep regret. It is confidently expected, however, that with the increasing effectiveness of the Wesleyan Theological College, a growing influence for good will be felt in the French department of our Missionary work.

As regards the number of students, it has increased each year during the brief history of the Institution. Last Session there was an attendance of seventeen, being thirteen sent by the Annual Conferences, and four occasional students. The many enquiries and applications for admission of students from different parts of the Dominion, indicate an extended recognition of the benefits of the College. The total number of students who have gone from the Institution into ministerial work in different parts of the country is thirtysix. It is gratifying to observe in many of these evidences of usefulness and<sup>3</sup> power.

In reference to the College curriculum, it embraces the various departments of Systematic Theology, Homiletics, Greek and Hebrew exegesis, Church History, History of Doctrine, Pastoral Theology, and Elocution. All who are acquainted with our operations have observed that the amount of labour devolving upon the few instructors of the College is excessive, yet, thoroughness of work has been the highest and most constant aim of our teaching. In addition to the foregoing departments, our students are registered for classes in Mental and Moral Philosophy, Logic and Natural Sciences in McGill University.

The Endowment Fund is \$50,000, of which \$30,000 have been collected and invested. The indebtedness of the Institution for current expenses is \$3,600. A very valuable lot is still held upon University Street, upon which it is hoped that suitable buildings will be erected. Towards the debt contracted in the purchase of this property, a generous donation of \$1,000 has lately been made by the Hon. James Ferrier.

WILLIAM I. SHAW, Registrar.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE MOUNT ALLISON WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND ACADEMIES.

The Board of Governors are pleased to be able to report that the four past years have been characterized by prosperity and progress in respect to all the Institutions committed to their oversight. These Institutions, embraced in a common trust, comprise the College, with Faculties in Arts and Theology, the Male Academy, with connected Commercial Department, and the Ladies' Academy, with Conservatory of Music and ample facilities for instruction in the Fine Arts.

In respect to the College it is a matter of regret that more imperative claims on the funds at their disposal have thus far hindered your Board from making such improvements and enlargements in the College buildings as the comfort of professors and students and the interests of the institution urgently demand. The Governors, however, refer with satisfaction to the augmented educational facilities which they have been able to provide during the past quadrennium by the establishment of new chairs, and by moderate expenditures for apparatus and other equipments. They trust that what is still lacking, as to buildings and outfit, they will soon be able to supply through the continued favour of the public, and the kindness of friends interested in the cause of higher education.

An important change in the relations of the College has resulted from its affiliation to the University of Halifax; an Examining and Degree-conferring Institution on the model of the University of London, established by the Legislature of Nova Scotia in the year 1871.

The passage of the Act, establishing this University, was ostensibly an attempt to promote the cause of higher education by securing the sympathetic co-operation of the governing Boards and Faculties of the various colleges. Interpreting it as a sincere movement in the interests of educational unity and University reform, our College Board

authorized such a modification of the Arts' curriculum as rendered it convenient for students to prepare for the degree examinations of the University of Halifax. It is not within the province of this report to make extended reference to the anticipated advantages of this affiliation. It may be added, however, that of the three Sackville students who presented themselves at the midsummer first B.A. examinations of the University, two won for themselves the first and second places respectively, in the first division of honors. This result, taken in connection with the fact that the Gilchrist scholarship for 1877 was won, with distinguished honour, by a member of the Freshman class of our College, has but strengthened the convictions of the Board of Governors as to the fidelity and scholarship of the Faculty with whom they are associated in the management of the College.

The work of the Theological department, begun in 1872, has continued to be prosecuted with a good measure of success during the last four years.

On an average, about fifteen probationers for our ministry have, by the appointment of the three Maritime Conferences, been in attendance at the institution from year to year. In addition to these, a considerable number of young men, accredited local preachers, have been in training, at their own expense, for this important work. Of the former, seven have taken, or are now taking, the undergraduate course of the College, and the remainder have been engaged in such studies as were best suited to their capacities and progress, ranging from the common branches of an English education to the Latin and Greek Classics, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences and Metaphysics. Besides these, classes have been taught in Apologetics, Moral Science, the Exegesis of the Old and New Testament in the original, Systematic Theology, Homiletics, Church history, the History of Doctrines, and Church Polity. It will thus be seen that the training of our young ministers has largely been dependent upon the assistance of the College professors in arts and the teachers in the Academy; and that without such aid the labour of the Theological department itself would be of little value. This circum-

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stance is one which we fear is apt to be undervalued by our people, or forgotten by them altogether. It forms a strong reason, nevertheless, for a very forcible appeal to the Church on behalf of our Collegiate work. Teaching, which is absolutely necessary for our rising ministry, which cannot be obtained for nothing, and the benefit of which is to be given to the Church, ought, in common justice, to be provided by the Church.

In 1875, by the appointment of a Theological Faculty from among the members of the Faculty of Arts, arrangements were made for giving the necessary instruction to complete a full course in Divinity. This step was taken with the full persuasion that it was alike required by the progress of the College and the circumstances of the times. A few have begun to avail themselves of the benefits of this course of study, and there is good reason to indulge the hope that it will become a means of doctrinal strength and proficiency in this day of religious indifferentism and controversialism.

The students in theology have continued to assist in supplying not only the Sackville pulpit, but also those of the Circuits and Missions around, both in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia. Their good influence, too, has been felt throughout the College, and in various ways they have rendered important service to the Church.

In addition to the difficulty of sustaining the work of our College and theological department for want of the funds which the Church ought to supply, several other evils have become increasingly obvious during the last four years. Of these may be named :

lst. The unfitness of so large a number of the probationers who are sent to the College to begin the studies proper to their ministerial office. The work of training has to be begun, not seldom with those of full manhood, with very elementary instruction. Such a disadvantage to the young men themselves, to their instructors, and to the Church at large, can only be obviated by requiring that at least the very moderate standard of learning prescribed in the Discipline should be met by every candidate previous

to his acceptance; or, better still, by elevating that standard and still demanding that it should be met.

2nd. The time usually spent at College is but two years, and is far too short for the accomplishment of the necessary Three years ought to be, if possible, given to the work. training of every candidate for the ministry of the Methodist Church of Canada.

3rd. Another evil from which the students, the College, and the Church alike suffer, is the uncertainty which rests upon the continuance of any probationer at his studies. When a Conference records its decision that a certain young man should, in order to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," attend our educational institutions, and appoints him thereto, some means ought, if possible, to be devised to prevent his being summoned away to fill up some vacancy in Circuit work. Otherwise, to meet a temporary exigency, a serious damage may be done to the lifework of the brother whose educational course is thus interrupted.

The Male Academy is now in the thirty-seventh year of its history. During the past four years the number of teachers has been increased, rendering possible a more advantageous division of labour. A commodious Academic Hall was also erected at an expense of nearly \$6,000, and other improvements initiated and successfully accomplished.

The Ladies' Academy has been enlarged, and otherwise greatly improved during the quadrennium under review. During that period over \$10,000 have been expended upon the buildings and their educational outfit; and it is specially gratifying to your Board to report that this expenditure has been met without any general appeal to the public or any draughts upon the educational or other funds of the The securing of such a result during a period of Church. general financial difficulty is an index of the strong position which this branch of our institution has obtained in the confidence of its patrons; as well as a proof of the economy with which its affairs have been managed. We have now a building adapted in almost every respect to the demands of female education, well supplied with all needful appliances

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and facilities for the work, and free from debt. The proximity of the Ladies' Academy to the College affords an opportunity to its students to attend all College classes for which they may be fitted; and as our College extends its privileges to all without distinction of sex, the young ladies attending the Mount Allison Institutions have placed before them a course of study extending from the elementary branches to and through a full curriculum for the Baccalaureate degree. Nor have the students of the Ladies' Academy proved unwilling or unable to avail themselves of these privileges. Many of the most successful students in the mental, moral, physical, and political sciences, as well as in languages and higher mathematics, have been of the gentler sex.

The attendance at both the College and Academies has been uniformly good during the past four years. The following is the average annual attendance :

College																							
College Male Academy . Ladies' Academy	• •	• •	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	,	•	•	,	•			•				•	•	40
Ladies' Academy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	105
Ladies' Academy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		82
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The Treasurer of the Mount Allison Institutions not being a member of this Conference, and probably not having been apprised of the desirability of forwarding a financial report, has not done so. It may, however, be stated as approximately correct that the amount of our College Endowment Fund is \$55,000 for the Arts Faculty, and \$15,000 for the Faculty of Theology, in all \$70,000. Of this amount \$45,000 has been collected and safely invested, the remaining \$25,000 being represented by the promissory notes of the donors, upon which they pay interest annually. The only other sources of income to our institutions are the fees from students, the grant from your Educational Society (which grant is appropriated wholly to the College), and a grant of \$2,400 annually from the Legislature of Nova Scotia. The latter grant will probably be withdrawn in 1881, the Government of Nova Scotia having given notice to that effect. Under these circumstances, it

is only too evident that our College cannot long continue to maintain its efficiency, in competition with older and better endowed institutions, unless its financial resources be largely increased.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

On behalf of the Board of Governors,

J. R. INCH, President of College.

## REPORT OF THE HAMILTON WESLEYAN FEMALE COLLEGE.

The authorities of the Hamilton Wesleyan Female College would report that the Institution has entered on its eighteenth year with its usual hopefulness and vigour. We could call the attention of the Conference to the prominent part this Institution has played in the education of the young ladies of the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific; to the thoroughness of its instruction, the Christian carefulness, as well as kindness, of its discipline; and the very marked spiritual influence that has pervaded its whole history. One hundred and thirty-three young ladies have graduated from its halls, many of whom are filling to-day positions of honour and trust, as well as profit, in the Faculties of other and similar Institutions; and many more are stamping the impress of Christian culture and refinement in the homes of Over 1000 young ladies have been registered our land. and educated in the Institution, and its eighteenth year has opened with an attendance very gratifying to its friends. We cannot, in a brief report, state the depth of our indebtedness to the late Governor, the Rev. Dr. Rice,- now the honoured Vice-President of your honourable body,-for his unflagging devotion to its interests and pre-eminent adaptation to the work. To him, more than to any other man, is the past success of the College attributable; and when his

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resignation was pressed upon us, it was received with unfeigned and deep regret.

The Board of Directors have taken great pains to secure and maintain a staff of Instructors of the highest order. The names of those who have formed the Faculty in the past will show that they are recognized among the foremost educators of the Dominion. While regretting the loss of the invaluable services of the late Governor, the Rev. Dr. Rice, the Board rejoice to fill the vacancy with a man whose history in connection with Victoria College and with two of the foremost Colleges in the Western States, places him in the first rank alike as an instructor in the lecture-room, as a College President, and as a successful promoter of all the interests of the Institution of which he has charge. Burns will be assisted by a staff of able Instructors in all departments, not visitors, merely, but residents in the College and City, whose energies and interests shall be given to the College and its work, and whose success in the past will be sufficient guarantee for the work of the future. We can confidently promise the Methodist Church of Canada that those of her daughters placed in our charge shall receive the best intellectual advantages of the day, the most careful moral and religious culture, and the tender solicitude and watchful care of a Christian home.

We would respectfully ask this Conference to appoint the usual number of Clerical Directors for the ensuing quadrennium.

Very respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Directors,

W. E. SANFORD.

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## APENDIX B.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AS FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

[Note.—Verbal and minor amendments are incorporated in the text of Reports; others are given in separate paragraphs.]

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

1. Touching the overture from the Rev. L. N. Beaudry, proposing a Ladies' Missionary Society, your Committee are of opinion that such a society, devoting itself exclusively to the work of Christian education on our Indian, French, and Foreign Missions, would be a valuable auxiliary to our present Missionary organization; and we recommend that the matter be left in the hands of the Central Board, with authority to organize the said society, if, in their judgment, the financial condition of the Church should warrant such a step during the present quadrennium.

2. In reference to the first suggestion, in the "Appendix to the Financial Report of the Missionary Society," the Committee recommend that after the close of the current year no claim from any Conference or Mission District for a grant for any new Mission, shall be recognized by the Central Missionary Board, unless the proposal to establish such new Mission has previously been submitted to, and sanctioned by, the vote of the Conference in which the Mission is proposed.

3. Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following suggestions contained in the "Appendix to the Financial Report of the Missionary Society":—

(1) That in making appropriations, the Central Board keep within the limits of the income of the preceding year, arising from regular sources, viz. :--Subscriptions and Col-

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

lections, Juvenile Offerings, the Grant from the Indian Department, and, for the present, the Grant from the English Committee.

(2) That the income arising from Legacies, and other miscellaneous sources, be left at the disposal of the Committee of Consultation and Finance for the reduction of the debt.

4. With a view to the immediate reduction of the debt, the Committee recommend,—That a sum equal to one-fourth of the debt—say \$16,000—be divided among the Conferences in proportion to the amounts raised for missionary purposes last year; and that the sum so allocated, be divided by the Annual Conference Missionary Committees, among the Districts of each Conference, to be raised and paid to the General Treasurers towards the reduction of the debt.

5. Touching the suggestions, contained in the appendix before alluded to, for the reduction of expenditure, your Committee recommend the adoption of the same in a slightly modified form, as follows:—

(1) In the publication of the Annual Report and the Missionary Notices. After the present year the following method shall be adopted :- Let the Secretaries publish an Annual Report for each Conference, containing a brief religious summary of our whole Mission work, the names of subscribers of \$2.00 and upwards, and the disbursements of the Conference; also a General Report containing the religious summary, the aggregate of income from each Circuit and Mission, and an account of all expenditure. Let the publication of the Missionary Notices be discontinued and instead thereof the editors of the Guardian and Wesleyan be directed to place at the disposal of the Missionary Secretaries sufficient space in their columns for the publication of such matter as is usually published in the Missionary All communications from the Mission Districts intended for publication in the organs of the Church, to be first examined and approved by the Missionary Secretaries. We recommend, further, that the Secretaries be authorized, should sufficient encouragement be given, to publish a Monthly Missionary Paper for our Sunday-schools, at such a price as will cover the cost.

[In amendment to the last clause, referring to a Missionary paper, it was *Resolved*,—That the Book Committee be requested to allow the Missionary Secretaries to occupy one page of the *Sunday-School Advocate*, with illustrated articles bearing on our Mission work.] See page 97.

(2) In the matter of Special grants. These are of various kinds,—for rent, supply in case of sickness, physicians' bills, &c., &c. During the past year over \$10,000 was granted for rent. Doubtless, there are some instances where a grant for rent is an absolute necessity; but there are large numbers of Missions where such a pressure as would induce the people to perform a long-neglected duty, and provide a home for the Missionary, would be a great blessing to the people themselves, and a great relief to the Missionary Treasury. In such cases notice shall be given by the Annual Conference Missionary Committee, that after a specified period grants for rent shall cease. To abolish entirely, grants in cases of affliction would seem harsh, and we do not recommend it; but we are constrained to say that there is sometimes a tendency to take advantage of this custom, and to throw upon the fund claims which, though apparently trifling in themselves, yet aggregate a considerable sum year by year. What we would recommend is, that grants be made only in cases where the affliction has been exceptionally severe, and the salary very small.

(3) By stopping grants to all Missions able to meet their own liabilities. A careful examination will show these to be sufficiently numerous to make quite a serious item in the annual grants.

6. In regard to the composition of the Central Board and of the Committee of Consultation and Finance, your Committee recommend,—

(1) That the Central Board of Missions shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the Officers of the Missionary Society, one minister to be chosen annually by each of the Conferences, one layman to be chosen annually by the laymen of the Local Missionary Committee, and six other persons (one-half of whom shall be laymen) to be appointed by the General Conference, and who shall continue

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in office for four years. Vacancies occurring among Con ference representatives may be filled by the Executive Committee of the Conference affected; and vacancies occurring among those appointed by the General Conference may be filled by the Committee of Consultation and Finance.

(2) That the Committee of Consultation and Finance shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the Officers of the Missionary Society, and twe ve other members to be appointed by the Central Board, six ministers and six laymen (a majority of whom shall be members of the Central Board), who shall provide, during the intervals of the Annual Meetings of the Board, for any exigencies that may arise.

7. The Memorial on Bermuda affairs was duly considered, and it is recommended that Bermuda be set off as a Mission District connected with the Toronto Conference, for adminis trative purposes. It is further recommended that the clause relating to the erection of a Naval Chapel be referred to the Central Board of Missions.

[In amendment to the first part of paragraph 7, it was *Resolved*,—That the Bermudas continue in connection with the Nova Scotia Conference.] See page 141.

8. In reference to Memorials from the Montreal Conference, and the Whitby District, Toronto Conference, and a resolution of the Central Missionary Board based thereon, recommending the appointment of but one Missionary Secretary, this Committee cannot recommend the adoption of said Memorials, believing, as we do, that the present state of the Society's affairs demands the services of two vigorous and effective men.

[In amendment to paragraph 8 of the Committee's Report, it was moved, seconded, and *Resolved*,—That one Missionary Secretary only be elected.] See page 98.

9. Your Committee recommend that a Memorial be drafted and sent to the House of Commons, respecting the documents and correspondence of the Mission Rooms with the Indian Department at Ottawa, in regard to the Mount Elgin Industrial Institution, etc., and that the following be a Committee to prepare the same, viz., Revs. Dr. Young,

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A. Sutherland, and J. B. Clarkson, M.A., and the Hon. Jas. Ferrier.

[In amendment to the foregoing, it was *Resolved*,—That the matter of a Memorial to the House of Commons, be referred to the Committee of Consultation and Finance, to take such steps as may be necessary in the case.]

10. In reference to the resolution of the Rev. James Gray, as to the practicability of amalgamating our Japan Mission with the M. E. Church of the United States, and recommending that the question be submitted to the several Conference Missionary Committees, to report to the Central Board their opinion on the same, the whole case to be reported to the next General Conference,-we are of opinion that the discussion of the question during so long a period would have a most depressing effect upon our brethren labouring in Japan, would shake the confidence of the people there in regard to the stability of the Mission, and at the same time chill the Missionary zeal of our churches, and decrease, rather than benefit, the funds of the Society. We therefore recommend that the suggestion be not entertained, and that the Conference at once affirm its purpose to prosecute the work in Japan.

11. In reference to the Memorial of the Montreal Conference, recommending a reduction of the Accountant's salary, the Committee find that the Accountant is employed by the Treasurers, and suggest that the matter be referred to the Central Board.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE YOUNG, Chairman WILLIAM HANSFORD, Secretary.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

#### I.---NAME.

This Society shall be known as "The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada." 1878.

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#### II. --- OBJECT.

The object of the Society is the support and enlargement of the Indian, French, Domestic, Foreign, and other Missions, which are carried on under the direction of the Conferences of the Methodist Church of Canada.

### JII.-MEMBERS.

Every person paying annually the sum of four dollars and upwards, and every person collecting annually ten dollars and upwards, for this Society. shall be deemed a member, and entitled to a copy of the Annual Conference Report. And every person paying annually twenty-five dollars, or collecting for the Society thirty dollars or upwards, shall also be entitled to a copy of the General Report.

## IV.---AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES

The Methodist Missionary Societies within the bounds of any Annual Conference shall collectively be entitled "The Auxiliary Missionary Society" for that Conference; and severally shall be entitled "Branch Societies" of such Auxiliary. Missionary Societies formed in our Sundayschools shall be entitled "Juvenile Branches" of the Conference Auxiliary.

## V.---TREASURERS.

1. Each Annual Conference may appoint a Treasurer, through whom all remittances to or from the head office shall be sent. In case any Annual Conference does not make such an appointment, then all remittances to and from the head office shall be made through the Chairmen of Districts in such Conference.

2. The Superintendent of a Circuit or Mission shall be Treasurer of the Branch Societies on his Circuit or Mission.

## VI.-REMITTANCES.

The money raised on any Circuit or Mission shall be transmitted as soon as collected to the Chairman of the District, deducting only what has been disbursed for incidental and local expenses; and the Chairman shall in turn remit promptly to the General Treasurers, through the Conference Treasurer (or directly if there be no Conference Treasurer), 11\*

all moneys received, deducting only necessary incidental expenses. All moneys from the General Treasurer to a District shall also pass through the Chairman's hands.

#### VII.—CIRCUIT LISTS.

The Superintendent of each Circuit or Mission shall prepare annually, not later than the first day of the May District Meeting, a list of all subscribers of two dollars and upwards, also the aggregate of all collections and sums under two dollars; such lists to be sent without delay to the Conference Treasurer or Chairman, who shall forward them to the Mission Rooms for insertion in the Annual Report, together with a statement of the gross receipts, local disbursements, and remittances.

### VIII.-CENTRAL BOARD.

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1. There shall be a Central Missionary Board for the management of the Missionary. Fund, which shall meet annually at such time and place as it may appoint.

2. This Board shall be composed of the President of the General Conference, the Officers of the Missionary Society, one minister, to be chosen annually by each Annual Conference, one layman, to be chosen annually by the laymen of each Conference Missionary Committee, and six other persons, one-half of whom shall be laymen, who shall be appointed by the General Conference, and continue in office for four years.

3. The duties of this Board shall be to review the Missionary work and apportion the funds committed to it, to the respective Conferences, according to the necessities of the various departments of the work. Also to make the necessary appropriations to the various Mission Districts.

4. When an appropriation is made by the Central Board to any particular department of the work, the Annual Conference Committee shall not be at liberty to divert any part of the grant to any other department.

5. Vacancies occurring among Conference representatives may be filled by the Executive Committee of the Conference affected; and vacancies occurring among those appointed by the General Conference may be filled by the Committee of Consultation and Finance.

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6. In the event of the death or disability of any of the Officers of the Society, the Committee of Consultation and Finance shall appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy till the next meeting of the Central Board, when such appointment may be confirmed or changed, pending the meeting of the next General Conference.

7. The Committee of Consultation and Finance shall also have authority to suspend any Officer of the Missionary Society for incompetency or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and supply his place till the next meeting of the Central Board, which shall have authority to fill the vacancy till the next General Conference.

# IX.--COMMITTEE OF CONSULTATION AND FINANCE.

A Committee, to be called the Committee of Consultation and Finance, shall be annually appointed by the Central Board, consisting of the President of the General Conference, the Officers of the Missionary Society and twelve other members,—six ministers and six laymen,—the majority of whom shall be members of the Central Board, who shall provide during the interval of the sessions of said Board for any exigencies that may arise. All the proceedings of said Committee shall be entered in a minute book, and reported to the Central Board at its Annual Meeting.

## X.---ANNUAL MEETING.

An Annual Public Meeting of the members and friends of this Society shall be held at the time and place appointed by the Central Board, connected with such religious services as may be deemed expedient.

## XI.---GENERAL OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

1. The General Conference shall appoint the General Secretaries and Treasurers of the Missionary Society, who shall be *ex-officio* members of the Central Board.

2. The General Secretaries shall, previous to each Financial District Meeting, furnish each Chairman of a District with a schedule, to be filled up by said Chairman at the Financial District Meeting, showing the estimated income and expenditure of each Mission for the support of the ministers and preachers, the amount of Missionary grant

recommended by the Financial District Meeting, &c. &c., which schedule shall be forwarded to the General Secretaries without delay. From these schedules the General Secretaries shall prepare a tabular statement for the information of the Central Board, in order that its members may intelligently and justly apportion the funds of the Society to the several Conferences.

3. It shall be the duty of the General Secretaries to make themselves acquainted with the entire mission field, by official correspondence, and personal visitation when practicable. It shall also be the duty of the Secretaries to publish the Annual General Report of the Society and the Reports of the several Annual Conferences, with a statement of their income and expenditure.

4. In the discharge of their duties, the officers of the Society shall act in harmony with the legally appointed courts and officers of the General and Annual Conferences. *Provided always*, that in case of any emergency arising that may require prompt action in the matter of supplying any remote Mission, it shall be competent for them, on the recommendation of the Committee of Consultation and Finance, to request the proper authorities of any Annual Conference to aid them in meeting such emergency, by appointing one of its ministers or preachers to such Mission.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee recommend-

1. That the reports of the Educational Society, of Victoria College, of Mount Allison Wesleyan College, and of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, be published in the Appendix to the Journals of the General Conference.

2. That Drs. Nelles, Douglas, Burwash, Inch, and Stewart be appointed a committee to prepare an address to all our Societies on our Educational work, and to publish the same in all our Connexional papers.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

3. Touching the petition of the graduates of Victoria College, they recommend—

(1) That the Senate be enlarged by the addition of four representatives of the graduates in Arts and one in each of the Faculties of Law, Medicine, and Divinity.

(2) That in the election, all graduates of three years' standing in the Faculty to be represented shall be entitled to vote and shall be eligible for election.

(3) That the Registrar of the Senate shall receive the votes and open and count the same in the presence of two scrutineers, to be appointed by the annual meeting of the Alumni Association next preceding.

(4) That ballots may be sent under seal by mail, but that no proxies shall be admitted.

(5) That the person receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected, and that the certificate of the Registrar to this effect shall entitle him to take his seat in the Senate.

(6) That the representatives so elected shall each hold office for four years. The election of representatives in Law, Medicine, and Theolegy shall take place in April next following the General Conference, once in four years, and the election of one representative of graduates in Arts annually in the same month. The poll shall close in every case on the 30th day of said month, at 12 noon, and the blank ballot papers shall be issued to all electors who forward their address to the registrar on or before the 15th of said month. The representatives in Arts shall retire in order of election one each year. But at the first election four representatives in Arts shall be elected, to retire in the order indicated by the votes polled, the person receiving the lowest number of votes retiring at the end of the first year.

(7) They further recommend that the powers of the Senate be extended to include the determination of Courses of Study and qualification for Degrees, the appointment of Examiners, and all matters strictly pertaining to the work of education.

(8) They would propose that the members of the Board in Cobourg, and the Alumni there resident, be a committee to secure the legislation necessary for this purpose.

4. The Committee recommend the following amendments to the Constitution of the Educational Society :---

In "Art. III.," that "five dollars" be changed to "two dollars."

Art. IV. The management of the Society shall be vested in a Secretary and Treasurers, together with an Advisory Committee, to be appointed by the General Conference, and of whom the President of the General Conference shall be one.

"Art. V." That the words "the members of the Central Board within the bounds of the Conference" be omitted and the words "and a Secretary and a Treasurer" be inserted before the words "appointed by the Annual Conference,"

Art. VI. Instead of the words "at some time in February or April" insert "at such time as may be directed by the Financial District Meeting." Instead of the second clause insert "A branch of the Society shall be organized on each Circuit or Mission, under whose direction meetings shall be held at which the claims of our Educational work shall be placed before our people and collections and subscriptions taken for the funds of the Society."

Art. VII. The Treasurer of each Annual Conference shall immediately at the close of his Conference remit to the General Treasurers one-half the net amount raised by his Conference, retaining the other half to be disbursed under the direction of the Committee of his Conference. The General Treasurer shall disburse the fund thus formed, first, for the payment of expenses authorized by the Advisory Committee; second, for the extinction of the existing debt in two, three, or four years, as may be deemed most prudent by the Advisory Committee; thirdly, to aid the institutions in which our ministry are educated in the following proportions :--- Victoria College, Faculty of Arts, one-third of the balance; ditto, Faculty of Theology, one-sixth. Montreal Wesleyan Theological College, one-fourth. Mount Allison Wesleyan College, one-fourth.

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Art. VIII. Each Annual Conference Committee shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of its Conference for the following purposes :----

1. To consider the cases of all candidates recommended by District Meetings to attend College and report to Conference the amount of aid, if any, to be given to each, and the College he shall attend.

2. To examine and order the payment of the approved accounts of expenses of examinations within the bounds of their Conference and of examiners appointed for the Theological Schools by their Conference.

Art. IX. It shall be the duty of the General Secretary, under the direction of the Advisory Committee, to prepare and publish the Annual Report, and to discharge such other duties as may be assigned him by the Committee.

5. That for the next four years the three Western Conferences, in addition to their half contributed to the general fund, shall make up the moiety of the Newfoundland Conference, and that this Conference retain the entire amount raised and disburse the same through its Conference Committee.

Also, that for the present year the entire funds raised shall be paid into the hands of the General Treasurers as in the past, and that out of this fund the grants made to students in June last be paid as heretofore, and the balance divided to the Institutions as provided in the preceding Constitution.

6. In the matter of the relation of the Wesleyan Theological College of Montreal, the Committee recommend the following :---

Whereas, representations have been made by the authorities of said Institution that it is desirable to consolidate the educational interests of our Church, and thus to increase the efficiency of the same ; it is recommended—

(1) That the General Conference approve of the affiliation of the Wesleyan Theological College of Montreal with Victoria University, and that the pass-work of students at McGill University be accepted *pro tanto* in their Arts' curriculum at Victoria University.

(2) That the Directors of the Wesleyan Theological College, in accordance with their request, be permitted to negotiate for an affiliation of the said Institution with McGill University for the purpose of instruction in Arts.

7. The Committee recommend that the resolution of the Hon. S. L. Shannon, touching attendance of our children at our own Institutions, be adopted.

8. They would also present the following nominations :---General Treasurers of Educational Society, W. E. Sanford, Esq., to whom all payments from Conference Treasurers are to be made, and from whom all moneys are to be received, and Rev. S. D. Lice, D.D. Secretary, Rev. Dr. Burwash.

## BOARD OF VICTORIA COLLEGE

BOARD OF VIC	TORIA COLLEGE
<ul> <li>Kev. E. Wood, D.D.</li> <li>" E. Ryerson, D.D., LL.D.</li> <li>" A. Green, D.D.</li> <li>" R. Jones.</li> <li>" S. D. Rice, D.D.</li> <li>" S. Rose, D.D.</li> <li>" S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D.</li> <li>" G. R. Sanderson, D.D.</li> <li>" E. B. Ryckman, M.A.</li> <li>" W. S. Griffin.</li> <li>" E. H. Dewart.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>TORIA COLLEGE.</li> <li>Hon. Senator Ferrier.</li> <li>Judge Dean, B.A.</li> <li>W. Kerr, M.A., Q.C.</li> <li>Judge Dumble, M.A., LL.B.</li> <li>Senator Brouse, M.A., M.D.</li> <li>John Macdonald.</li> <li>B. M. Britton, M.A., Q.C.</li> <li>M. Lavell, M.D.</li> <li>W. Beatty, M.A., LL.B.</li> <li>J.J.Maclaren, M.A., LL.B., Q.C.</li> <li>W. H. Gibbs</li> </ul>
outfortallu,	W. E. Sanford.
BOARD OF MOUNT ALLIS	ON WESLEYAN COLLEGE.
Kev. J. McMurray. J. Hart. H. Pickard, D.D. C. Stewart, D.D. J. Taylor. A. W. Nicolson. J. Lathern.	Josiah Wood, M.A. H. B. Allison. J. Hart. A. A. Stockton, M.A., LL.B. J. Prichard. J. D. Dixon. D. Allison, LL.D. J. R. Inch. LL.D.
CLERICAL DIRECTORS OF THE WI	ESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.
<ul> <li>Kev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D.</li> <li>S. Rose, D.D.</li> <li>J. A. Williams, D.D.</li> <li>N. R. Willoughby, M.A.</li> </ul>	Rev. E. B. Ryckman, M.A. "G. R. Sanderson, D.D. "N. Burwash, S.T. D.
CLERICAL DIRECTORS OF THE	ONTARIO LADIES' COLLEGE
Rev. J. Shaw. " C. Shaw. " Geo. Leach	Rev. E. H. Dewart. "W. H. Laird.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

9. The Committee recommend the resolution of the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., touching a course of study in Victoria College and examinations for ladies, to the favour able consideration of the Conference.

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10. Touching the memorial of Stanstead College, the Committee recommend the following resolutions :---

(1) That this Conference most heartily recommends the Stanstead Wesleyan College to the patronage and liberality of the whole Church.

(2) That the Conference hereby authorizes the Stanstead Wesleyan College to solicit aid throughout the Connexion.

11. That whereas there is some doubt as to the connexion. tion of the resolution of the last General Conference touching the appointment of the Professors of Theology of our Church, it is resolved—

(1) That for each Theological School or College, the General Conference shall appoint a Professor of Theology, who shall also be Principal or Dean of the Faculty, such appointment to continue during the pleasure of the Conference.

(2) That the salary of the Professor so appointed shall be determined and provided by the Board of the College to which he is appointed.

(3) That in case of a charge against the moral or religious character of such Professor, or touching the harmony of his belief or teaching with the standards of doctrine of our Church, if the Annual Conference to which he belongs, or a legal Committee of that Conference, after due investigation and trial, shall find the charge sustained, his appointment shall thereby become vacant.

(4) That the Board may at any time recommend the General Conference to remove a Professor for inefficiency.

(5) That in any case of vacancy the Board shall have the right to make one or more nominations to the General Conference for its consideration. In case of a vacancy occurring in the interval between oue General Conference and another, the vacancy shall be filled by the Special Committee of the General Conference, such appointment to continue until the next following General Conference.

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(6) That the Dean of the Faculty of Theology shall take charge of the government and pastoral oversight of the students in Theology, subject to the authority of the President of the College and the decisions of the Faculty of Theology.

(7) That the respective College Boards be instructed to obtain the necessary legislation to harmonize the provisions of their charters with these resolutions.

12. We recommend the following names to constitute the Advisory Board of the Educational Society :---The Treasurers, the Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D.; the Rev. Geo. Douglas, LL.D.; J. R. Inch, LL.D.; the Rev. C. Stewart, D.D., and the Rev. N. Burwash, S.T.D.

13. Touching, the reference of Dr. Aylsworth, the Committee cannot recommend the Conference to take any action, inasmuch as the matter was fully investigated by a Lay Committee consisting of Messrs. W. T. Mason, L. C. Peake, and G. Flint, and reported to Conference in 1871.

14. The Committee nominate the following as the Board of Management of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal:—

The President of the General	Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D.
Conference.	J. A. Williams, D.D.
Hon. James Ferrier.	W. E. Sanford.
John Torrance.	Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D.
W. Clendinneng.	J. Potts, D.D.
J. Dillon.	James Paterson.
Samuel Finlay.	Rev. J. Elliott, D.D.
George Bishop.	J. J. Maclaren, LL.B. O.C.
George Bishop.	J. J. Maclaren, LL.B., Q.C.
Rev. E. Ryerson, D.D., LL.D.	James Lord.

The members resident in Montreal to constitute the Executive Committee.

The Committee report the following supplementary resolutions for adoption by the Conference :---

That as the purposes of the Educational Society contemplated the establishment of an Educational Institution in Manitoba, and for French work in Quebec, the Advisory Committee of the Society be empowered to make such appropriations as may be necessary, according to their claims.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

That having recognized the necessity of providing the means of education for our French Canadian youth, and feeling that the duty is one of grave and growing importance, this General Conference recommends that the Stanstead Wesleyan College, already established and available for the purposes of such education, shall be utilized to that end, and that as soon as possible arrangements be made to give effect to this resolution, by the Committee having the oversight of the French work in the Montreal Conference.

All which is respectfully submitted.

N. BURWASH, Secretary.

## MEMORIAL OF THE STANSTEAD WESLEYAN COLLEGE.

The Memorial of the Trustees of the Stanstead Wesleyan College, on behalf of the Montreal Conference, to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, respectfully showeth,—

1. That for many years past, more particularly since the incorporation of the Canada East District with the Canada Conference, there has existed a profound impression that it was the imperative duty of the Methodist Church to provide the means of superior education for the youth of both sexes in the Province of Quebec.

2. That this conviction of duty to the Church and to the country took practical form and effect by the energetic and laudable efforts of certain ministers of the Methodist Church, labouring in the Eastern Townships, who were induced to locate the proposed College at Stanstead, not only because of the beauty of the situation and salubrity of the climate, but chiefly because the friends and public generally of that municipality pledged themselves to a gift of \$15,000, which pledge they have fulfilled.

3. That the Stanstead Wesleyan College, thus initiated, became proprietary in its character, and the amount of

stock necessary for its commencement was subscribed, amounting to nearly \$38,000, upwards of \$32,000 of the same being in due time paid, so that the building proceeded and the College was opened for pupils of both sexes in 1873 or 1874.

4. That the Directors of the Stanstead Wesleyan College being fully sanctioned in their enterprise by formal resolutions of the Canada Conference at its session in 1871, which were published in the Minutes of that year, did in 1872 obtain a charter from the Legislature of Quebec, whereby, they became an incorporated body, having the right to alienate and transfer the property and the management of the Institution, if they should think proper so to do. In consequence of the widespread commercial depression which began some four or five years ago, the Directors felt themselves unable to maintain the College efficiently, and deemed it advisable to propose an unreserved transfer of the whole to the Montreal Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada. In accordance with the charter and in fulfilment of its terms and conditions, and fully believing that the purpose for which the College was established would thereby be most effectually accomplished, the Directors appointed a deputation, who appeared before the Montreal Conference of 1876, and after being heard, the whole subject was referred to a Committee for fuller consideration of the whole The report of the Committee recommended the case. acceptance of the College and all property belonging thereto; appointing a Committee of Conference to examine the charter and the property, and providing that all the terms and conditions were fulfilled, the provisional Trustees were authorized to accept the property, and to execute a deed of transfer to the Montreal Conference for the Methodist Church of Canada. The President of the Conference for the time being conducted the negotiations with great care, under the advice of competent legal counsel, Mr. J. J. Maclaren, of Montreal, and C. C. Colby, M.P., of Stanstead, and the deed of transfer was duly executed by the President in behalf of the provisional Trustees, and by Mr. W. H. Lee in behalf of the Charter Directors.

5. That the Montreal Conference of 1877 accepted the deed thus executed, which has been duly registered, and

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ted the ed, and accepted it, not for itself, but for the Methodist Church of Canada, as far as it could do so, and so expressed its acceptance in the phraseology of the deed. With a view effectively to carry on the work of education, the Montreal Conference appointed the Board of Trustees, and sanctioned the appointments of Moral Governor and Principal, with the requisite staff of teachers. The reports of the College pre sented to the Montreal Conference in 1878 were highly encouraging, showing that the current income of the year covered the current expenses.

6. This Memorial further showeth: That at the Brockville Conference, 1878, the conviction was deeply felt and expressed that it would be disastrous to our Church and to the common Protestantism of the Dominion if the property of the Stanstead Wesleyan College should pass out of our hands. A scheme for the liquidation of the debt was proposed, which required that the ministers should subscribe \$5,000, and the friends at Stanstead another \$5,000, preliminary to a general appeal to the Church for the \$20,000, assuming the debt with its interest to be about \$30,000. The ministers of the Montreal Conference and the friends of Stanstead have subscribed over the \$10,000 required of them, which, together with other amounts obtained by the late agent, covers nearly one-half of the debt. The property is estimated as worth \$50,000, and is now insured for \$30,000.

7. That at the last session of the Montreal Conference it was resolved to ask the General Conference to ratify the acceptance of the Stanstead Wesleyan College, as it is absolutely the property of the Connexion, and without involving the General Conference in any liabilities, other than such as may arise from the incorporation of the Stanstead College with the work of the Educational Society of the Methodist Church of Canada.

That the General Conference be requested to consider the premises hereinbefore set forth, and to take such steps as in its wisdom may be deemed wise and just, in order to ensure the permanency and prosperity of the Stanstead Wesleyan College.

> WILLIAM SCOTT, Chairman. A. HARDIE, Secretary.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE COURSE OF STUDY.

## The Committee recommend,---

1. That the request of the Montreal Conference for the adoption of a Course of Study for candidates for the French work be granted.

2. That the Conference direct the following alterations in the reading of the Discipline :—

(1) Page 38. Instead of the sentence commencing "The Reports of Examining Committees are to be presented," &c., read as follows :—The Boards of Examiners shall report to the District Meetings those candidates who have passed a satisfactory examination in the Preliminary Course of Study; they shall also report the character of all the other examinations. These reports are to be recorded in the minutes of the Districts, and presented to the Conferences.

(2) Page 41, Ans. 1. Add as follows :--He must also pass a satisfactory written examination, and an oral examination such as the Examiners may deem necessary, on the subjects prescribed by the Conference as the Preliminary Course of Study.

(3) Page 41, Ans. 2. Omit the concluding part, "He shall also be required," &c., because included in the above alteration.

(4) Page 43, Ans. 9. Add as follows:—Graduates in Arts shall, when received on trial, be allowed one year on their probation, provided they complete the Course of Study for the first two years in the first year.

(5) Page 44, Ans. 13 shall read as follows :--Graduates in Divinity shall be exempted from the regular course of study. In the case of candidates who, by permission of the Conferences to which they belong, are pursuing the B. D. course in any of our theological schools, the annual examination in such course of study shall be accepted instead of

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raduates course of on of the he B. D. examinnstead of the annual examination in the regular course for any year. But, prior to being recommended to be received into full connection and ordained, both these classes of candidates shall be examined on Wesley's Sermons and Notes on the New Testament, Fletcher's Checks I.-V.. Stevens' History of Methodism, and the Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada. This examination shall also be required of all candidates passing through our theological schools who have not been examined on these subjects in their course of study.

(6) Page 45, Ans. 4. Add as follows :—Any minister who has received aid from the Educational Society, and who shall retire from our ministry within ten years after his reception on trial, shall refund such amount to the Society before receiving a certificate of his standing.

(7) Page 44, Ans. 14. Add, Candidates for our French work shall pursue the course of study prescribed in Appendix V.

(8) Page 54, Ans. 5. Add,—No Quarterly Meeting shall recommend any person as a candidate for our ministry until he has been a local preacher at least six months.

3. No student of less than two years' standing at Victoria or Mount Allison College, or at the Montreal Theological College, shall be received as a candidate for our ministry without the recommendation of the quarterly meeting of the Circuit upon which he has been resident before entering college, together with a certificate of good moral and religious standing from the President of the College, or the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, with which he has been connected.

4. The Annual Conferences in appointing examiners for our theological schools, are recommended to continue the same examiners in office for four years, as far as may be practicable.

5. The Committee recommend the following courses of study for adoption by the Conference :—

## I.-COURSE OF STUDY TO BE PURSUED BY CAN-DIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY IN THE METH-ODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

#### PRELIMINARY.

1. English Branches :---

English Grammar and Composition. Arithmetic.

Geography.

Ancient History (Schmitz).

Modern History (Collier's British Empire).

2. Biblical History :---

New Testament History (Smith's).

3. Theology :---

Wesley's Sermons, I. to LII. Wesley on Christian Perfection.

The standard of qualification for young men recommended to be received into our Conferences as Probationers, shall not be lower than fifty per cent. of the marks on the Preliminary Course of Study.

Any candidate who may present a public school teacher's certificate of the second class, or a certificate of having passed a matriculation examination at any of our universities, shall not require to be examined on the English branches of the Preliminary Course; but he shall be required to pass an examination in the subjects of Biblical History and Theology—two and three, Preliminary Course —before the Examining Board of his Conference, or for the college at which he may be pursuing his studies.

#### FIRST YEAR'S COURSE.

- 1. Biblical Introduction :---
  - Angus' Hand-Book, Pt. I.
- 3. Theology :--

Fletcher's Checks, Chap. I. to V.

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

SECOND YEARS' COURSE.

2. Church History :---Kurtz' History of the Church to the Reformation. Stevens' History of Methodism to the Death of Wesley.

THIRD YEAR'S COURSE.

- 2. Rhetoric.—(Whateley's.)

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- 4. Theology :---Watson's Institutes, Part II., Chap. XVIII. to the end.

Pearson on the Creed.

FOURTH YEAR'S COURSE.

Hopkins' Evidences of Christianity. Garbutt's Dogmatic Faith.

3. Logic.—(Whateley's.)

5. Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada.

# II.-COURSE OF STUDY FOR GRADUATES IN ARTS.

Candidates who have proceeded to a degree in Arts, or who may do so prior to ordination, shall pursue the following Course of Study :— 12

PRELIMINARY.

- 2. Biblical History :----Smith's New Testament.

#### FIRST YEAR.

- 1. Biblical Introduction :----Angus' Hand-Book, Part I.

#### SECOND YEAR.

- 2. Theology :---Garbutt's Dogmatic Faith. Hopkins' Evidences of Christianity.

#### THIRD YEAR.

1. Exegesis :---

Gospels of Matthew and John in Greek. Wesley's, Watson's and Whedon's Notes on Matthew and John.

- 3. Theology:---Watson's Institutes, Part II., Chap. I. to XVII. inclusive, and Parts III. and 1V.

#### FOURTH YEAR.

1. Exegesis :---

Epistle to the Romans in Greek. Wesley's and Whedon's Notes on Romans. 1878.]

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## METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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## 2. Church History :---

Fisher's History of the Reformation.

Stevens' History of Methodism to the Death of Wesley. 3. Theology :---

Watson's Institutes, Part II., Chap. XVIII. to the

4. Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada.

## III.-COURSE OF STUDY FOR PROBATIONERS AT COLLEGE.

All Candidates on Probation, except Undergraduates in Arts who are recognized by their Annual Conference as such, on being appointed to College, shall pursue the following Course of Study :---

### FIRST YEAR.

1. Systematic Theology.

2. Exegesis; the Greek Language.

3. Homiletical Studies; Rhetoric and the English Lan-

4. Logic.

5. Church History; Hebrew, or Natural Science.

#### SECOND YEAR.

1. Systematic Theology.

2. Exegesis of the New Testament in Greek.

3. Homiletical Studies and Elocution.

4. Metaphysics.

5. Church History; Hebrew or Natural Science.

#### THIRD YEAR.

1. Historical Theology.

2. Exegesis of the New Testament in Greek.

3. Homiletical Studies.

4. Ethics and Evidences.

5. Old Testament Exegesis, or Natural Science.

The option allowed in number five each year shall be determined by the Faculty of Theology according to their judgment of the circumstances and ability of the student.

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## IV.—COURSE OF STUDY FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE GERMAN WORK.

All candidates before being recommended to the Conference to be received on trial, shall pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects :---

#### PRELIMINARY.

1. Elements of German Grammar.

2. Nast's Larger Catechism.

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3. The Calverin Church History.

4. The Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada.

After admission on trial, they shall be examined each year during their probation as follows :----

#### FIRST YEAR.

1. Jacoby's Compends of Doctrines and Scripture Proofs.

2. Wesley's Sermons, Vol. I.

3. Hare on Justification.

4. Kurtz' Sacred History.

5. Webster's General History.

6. Wurst's Grammar.

#### SECOND YEAR.

- 1. Wesley's Sermons, Vol. II.
- 2. Wesley on Christian Perfection.

3. Fletcher's Appeal.

- 4. Sauer's Church History.
- 5. Wurst's Grammar.

#### THIRD YEAR.

1. Nast's Introduction to the New Testament.

2. Lisco's Exposition of the Creed.

3. Nast's Wesley and his Coadjutors.

4. Pearson on Infidelity.

5. Ahn's First Course of English.

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#### FOURTH YEAR.

1. Warren's Logic.

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2. Luthard's Apologetics.

3. Harless' Christian Ethics.

4. Ahn's Second Course of English.

The candidates shall present a written sermon each year on some subject embraced in the course of study.

# V.—COURSE OF STUDY FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE FRENCH WORK.

All candidates before being recommended to be received on trial for the French work, shall pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects :---

#### PRELIMINARY.

- 1. French Grammar and Composition.
- 2. Arithmetic and Geography.
- 3. Ancient and Modern History (Lenormant).
- 4. Methodist Catechism, No. II.
- 5. Sermon on the Mount (Wesley).

After admission on trial they shall be examined each year during their probation as follows :----

#### FIRST YEAR.

- 1. Voie du Salut (Wesley).
- 2. Manuel de la Bible (Angus, Part I., Chaps. I. to III).
- 3. Perfection Chrétienne (Wesley).
- 4. Traité de la Vérité de la Religion (Abbadie).
- 5. Etude Biblique (Godet).

6. Histoire de la Réformation au xvi. me siecle, (D'Aubigné, Vol. I. et II).

#### SECOND YEAR.

1. Revue Théologique (Bois).

2. Manuel de la Bible (Angus, Part I., Chaps. IV. to VII).

3. Histoire de l'Eglise (Bonnefon).

4. Histoire de la Litterature Française (Vinet).

5. Philosophie Naturelle (Ganot).

#### THIRD YEAR.

1. Epitre de St. Jacques (Chapuis).

2. Homiletique (Vinet).

3. Histoire de la Théologie Protestante (Dorner).

4. Manuel de la Bible (Angus, Part II., Chaps. I. to IV).

5. Rhetorique (Girard).

#### FOURTH YEAR.

1. Théologie Pastorale (Vinet).

2. Histoire de la Réformation au xvi. me siecle, (D'Aubigné, Vols. III. and IV).

3. Revue Chretienne (De Pressensé).

4. Christianisme au IV. me siecle (De Pressensé).

5. Manuel de la Bible (Angus, Part II., Chaps. V. to VII).

6. Discipline de l'Eglise Methodiste.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

E. B. HARPER, Chairman, C. Jost, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Your Committee beg to report as follows :---

1. That in regard to the memorial requesting that one Sabbath in the month be devoted to the study of the Catechism, your Committee cannot recommend its adoption; but, instead thereof, would suggest that Article III. of the Constitution, entitled "Instruction," page 96 of the Discipline, be so amended as to read,—That the Catechism shall be regularly taught in each session of all our schools, as may be approved by the superintendent and teachers of the school.

In amendment to paragraph 1, it was

Resolved,—That the following clause be added to the Report, and be inserted after clause 3 of "General Princi-

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ples," on page 98 of the Discipline, viz. :--The Methodist Catechism shall be regularly used in all our Sabbath-schools.]

2. Your Committee cannot recommend the adoption of the prayer of the memorial for the establishment of two separate Sabbath-school Boards.

3. We recommend that Article II., page 96, be so amended as to read, after the words "Superintendent of the Circuit," "in the November Quarterly Official Meeting, from among its own members, and elected by said meeting, and who shall take office at the next meeting of the said Committee of Management."

4. In order to secure greater harmony of action in the schools, we would recommend that there be a union of the Committee of Management and the Teachers' Meeting. To accomplish which it will be necessary to expunge section 2 of Article II., page 96, and Article V. ELECTION, shall read, "The Committee shall annually elect all the Officers and Teachers at the regular meeting of the Committee, next preceding the Anniversary of the School; the Superintendent of the Circuit nominating the Superintendent of the School, who shall, after his election, nominate the rest of the Officers and Teachers; and in the same manner from time to time fill such vacancies as may occur, or appoint any new Teachers or Assistants as may be necessary. Article VI. MEETINGS, to be amended by striking out the word "quarter" and inserting "month."

And from under the heading "Teachers' Meetings," strike out all but the last two lines, which shall read, "If at all practicable there shall be a weekly meeting of the Teachers for the study of the lesson.

5. We recommend that the first answer to the question, What directions are necessary, &c., page 95, be expunged.

6. That in view of the urgent necessity of increasing our Missionary income, we recommend the Conference to request that Juvenile Missionary Societies be formed in connection with all our schools as far as practicable.

[In amendment to paragraph 6, it was

Resolved,—That every Superintendent of a Circuit be required to promote by every means in his power the

augmentation of juvenile contributions to the funds of the Missionary Society, by forming Juvenile Missionary Societies, by Sabbath Collections, the use of Cards or Missionary Boxes, or such other means as may be judged best in each locality.]

7. Your Committee beg further to state that they have carefully considered the Report of the Sabbath-school Board submitted to them, and having abridged the same, now recommend its adoption by the Conference, the subjects requiring legislative action having been already considered by the Conference.

8. The Committee beg to nominate the following as the members of the Sabbath-school Board for the next four years, viz. :---

Rev. G. R. Sanderson, D.D. Mr. Warring Kennedy. Mr. D. B. Chisholm. Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A. Mr. R. Wilkes. Mr. J. K. Griffin.

Rev. John Potts, D. D. Mr. Richard Brown. Mr. Johnson Harrison. Rev. S. J. Hunter. Rev. A. Andrews.

The President of the General Conference is, by the Constitution, Chairman of the Board.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. MILLER, M.D., Chairman. A. ANDREWS, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE SABBATH-SCHOOL BOARD.

The extraordinary development of Sabbath-school agencies forms one of the distinguishing features of the religious world in the present age; and we find all branches of the Church vieing with each other in the attention given to the religious culture of children. The Methodist Church cannot consistently fall behind in this movement, for she

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has, from the beginning, recognized that "children are the church's charge from baptism." It is, therefore, with much pleasure that we find, from the returns made annually to the several Conferences of the Methodist Church of Canada, that there is in every section of the Dominion an increased attention paid to this department of our Church, although it is far from evident that the position gained is satisfactory as an ultimate attainment; indeed, we are now only waking up to realize our obligations in this direction.

#### NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

We have at present 1,733, being an increase since 1874 of 375, or twenty-six per cent. during the quadrennium. Of 3,184 preaching appointments in the Connexion, we deeply regret to find that 1,451 congregations report no Methodist school, and only 1,002 schools are kept open during the whole year; showing that two-thirds of our congregations are without Sabbath-schools during about onehalf of the year. This is an improvement over the returns of 1877, when we had 1,698, or more than one-half of our congregations which reported no Sabbath-schools, and only 880 schools were then continued throughout the entire year.

# TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS.

A grand army of 15,751 officers and teachers, of whom over 13,000 are members of the Methodist Church, is engaged in carrying on this work, being an increase of 3,631, or thirty per cent. during the four years. The average attendance of teachers is highly commendable, being 12,751, or a little more than eighty per cent. for each Sabbath.

The ranks of scholars have been recruited by an increase of 29,989, or thirty-two per cent. over the returns of 1874. Total number of scholars at present 122,157.

The spiritual results are the cause of profound rejoicing. Since 1874, 20,986 conversions of scholars are reported, and 15,059 are now meeting in class, yet this is only thirteen per cent. of the entire number of scholars. 12\*

#### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

The International lessons, which have been so highly approved in the United States and in this Dominion, and recently adopted by the Wesleyan Sunday-school Union of England, and bid fair to become universal, have been largely used in our schools: 1,090 are now pursuing them regularly, leaving 643 schools which study lessons of their own selection.

#### CATECHISMS.

The last General Conference expressed itself clearly that the catechisms should be taught in all our schools, yet we find that only 20,298 of the scholars are engaged in studying them, being seventeen per cent. of the entire number of scholars enrolled. The difficulty of efficiently using the catechisms is felt very keenly in this country and elsewhere. It is sincerely hoped that in its wisdom the General Conference may be able to devise some practical measure to remedy this serious defect.

#### SCRIPTURE RECITATIONS.

We also observe with much pain that the time-honoured custom of having scholars regularly commit to memory portions of the Holy Scriptures, is falling greatly into disuse in many sections of our work. It is time that some feasible measure be adopted to restore this excellent practice at the earliest moment.

#### WEEKLY TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

Regular weekly meetings for the mutual study of the lessons are held in connection with 208 schools, with marked advantage. In some of these meetings there are occasional specimen lessons given by one of the regular teachers to the scholars of his own class, and with great practical benefit to the other teachers who are present.

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## LIBRARIES AND PERIODICALS.

Volumes in the libraries, 214,781; connexional periodicals taken—4,803 *Banners*, and 14,612 *Advocates*, an increase since 1874 of 595 *Banners* and 1,300 *Advocates*; but there are 32,567 copies of other publications taken, some of which are Berean Leaves, but the greater proportion are issued from sources outside of our own Book-rooms.

#### FUNDS.

The collection for the General Sabbath-school Fund taken up in the schools has amounted, during the past four years, to \$2,050.36. The amount for the year ending June, 1878, is \$694.52, being an increase of \$103.43 over the returns of 1877.

#### CONVENTIONS.

Much of the impetus given to the Sabbath-school cause of late is due to the large number of conventions of a general and denominational character which have been held. The latter have been of special benefit to the Churches under whose direction they have been conducted. In these gatherings, ministers and teachers, by consultation and discussion of subjects affecting the schools, become better acquainted with their wants, and understand more clearly the relation of the schools to the Church; and thus great advantage is secured to all the interests involved.

Appreciating the importance of such gatherings, our last General Conference gave direction for the holding of Annual District Conventions. Thirteen in all have been held during the past year, six being in the London Conference, four in the Toronto, two in the Nova Scotia, and one in the New Brunswick. We regret to find that in some instances, in the pressure of business at the May District Meetings, far too little time was given to the Sabbath-school Reports, which may, perhaps, account in part for the incompleteness of many of the returns.

#### CONFERENCE SABBATH-SCHOOL MEETINGS.

The anniversary meetings held in connection with the several Annual Conferences have been seasons of profit, and their continuance is strongly urged. We would suggest that it might be practicable, by previous arrangement, to devote an afternoon at each Conference for the reception of the Sabbath-school Report; after which topics previously chosen and assigned to different speakers to introduce, might be discussed in a similar manner to that now adopted at Institutes and Conventions, with great service to our Sabbath-schools.

#### DUTIES OF THE S. S. BOARD.

The special work accomplished by the direction of this Board may be classified under three general heads,—1. Collection of statistics; 2. Examination of library books; 3. Grants to needy schools.

#### 1. STATISTICS.

Appended to this Report is the tabular statement, showing the aggregate returns of all the Conferences for the year ending April, 1878.

#### 2. WINNOWED BOOKS.

The Library Committee, composed of the Revs. W. H. Withrow, M.A., S. J. Hunter, and A. Andrews, have prosecuted their work with thoroughness, and as extensively as possible, considering the claims of their other duties as ministers appointed to full work by their respective Conferences. It is, perhaps, impossible to over-estimate the importance of the object sought to be accomplished through the Library Committee.

We cannot here give details of the method pursued by our Committee farther than to mention that every book is carefully selected by the Committee, and afterwards read by one of the 250 ministers who have consented to read and report upon books which may be forwarded to them. These reports are then carefully considered by the Committee, and the books are either approved or rejected. Of

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937 books thus examined 685 volumes have been approved, catalogues of which have been published. These lists of Winnowed Books have been circulated widely throughout our circuits; 116 books have been rejected as unsuitable for our Sabbath-schools, 48 have not been reported, and of the remainder, some are duplicates of the same book by different publishers, and some have not yet been passed by the Committee.

Five hundred volumes have been ordered from the Wesleyan Conference Office, London. These books will be examined in our usual manner before being placed on our Winnowed lists.

Arrangements have been made with some of the best publishing houses by which we can obtain at half-price all their new issues so soon as they are out. We hope to be able, ultimately, to obtain all valuable new books, and have them examined and placed on our lists with as little delay as possible. The Board has been much encouraged in this work by the expressed appreciation of those Sabbath-school officers and teachers who have purchased the Winnowed books.

#### 3. GRANTS.

During the past two years grants have been made to needy schools, amounting in value to \$368.56. In addition to this, by the generosity of many of our larger schools, over 4,000 volumes of second-hand books have been placed at the disposal of the Rev. W. H. Withrow, M.A., our Sabbathschool Editor, who has distributed them to applicants in various parts of our Connexion, from Palestine, Manitoba, in the West, to the fishing villages of Newfoundland, in the East. Further donations of second-hand books are requested, as many applications remain unfilled for want of books. The expense of transmitting these books to Toronto is borne by the General Sabbath-school Fund. It is earnestly hoped that the Board will be placed in a position to offer greater facilities to our own schools than they have yet possessed for obtaining our approved books and periodicals. Recognizing the importance of assisting schools in this manner, the Wesleyan Sunday-school Union of England has granted

102,976 volumes during three years past, to schools connected with the Union, at less than half-price, while all Sabbathschool requisites are furnished to them at 25 per cent. discount. In this manner an immense amount of valuable reading matter is placed within the reach of scholars and teachers.

#### THE OUTLOOK. ---- TEACHER-TRAINING.

The Church seems to be waking up to realize the vital importance of a proper qualification of teachers for Sabbathschool work. Normal classes are increasing rapidly in the United States, England, and Canada, and this movement may be regarded as one of the most hopeful features of the Sabbath-school world at the present time. We trust that not only will our ministers on circuits enter heartily upon the task of assisting teachers now employed in the work, but that in our colleges and theological schools, classes may be formed, as soon as possible, of young men and women who may be willing to devote themselves to this subject, using such a course of lessons as may seem to the Faculty of each Institution most likely to accomplish the desired end. We would respectfully recommend to them the Chautauqua course of lessons, prepared by Dr. Vincent, and now being revised and published, with Dr. Vincent's consent, by the present Secretary of our Sabbath-school Board, as the most approved course at present attainable.

#### OUR PUBLICATIONS.

It is hoped that the Conference will adopt some measures by which, if possible, we may succeed in supplying our schools more generally with our own publications. With this object in view, we would suggest that it would be well to constitute the Book Stewards and Editors of the Connexional periodicals *ex-officio* members of the Sabbathschool Board, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Sabbath-school Board members of the Central Book Committee, thereby ensuring also harmony of action between these two important branches of our Church's work.

#### SECRETARY'S WORK.

In view of the vast importance of our Sabbath-school cause, and in order to prosecute it advantageously, we are

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of the opinion that the time has fully arrived that the Secretary of the Sabbath-school Board should be directly appointed by the General Conference, and be relieved from circuit duties, in order to devote all his attention to the Sabbath-school cause. His duties shall consist in superintending the examination of library books and approved appliances for Sabbath-schools; advertising lists of the same; and, when deemed advisable, furnishing to Sabbathschool authorities all necessary requisites for their work, in such manner as may be deemed best by the Board. He shall be a member of any committee appointed to appropriate grants to schools. He shall render such assistance to the editor of the Sabbath-school periodicals as he may be able. He shall, with the consent of the superintendents of the circuits, conduct normal classes, institutes, and conventions at convenient centres; address public meetings in the interests of our Sabbath-school work generally, and take up collections for the General Sabbath-school Fund when he may have opportunity. His movements to be under the direction of the Sabbath-school Board, to whom he shall be responsible.

#### CONSTITUTION.

We would respectfully request the General Conference to express its judgment as to whether the constitution found in the Discipline shall be regarded as the rule of the Church for all our schools.

# DISTRICT SUNDAY-SCHOOL SECRETARIES.

To secure more accurate Sabbath-school returns, and for the general good of the Sabbath-school cause, we would recommend that there be District Sabbath-school Secretaries appointed by each Annual Conference for all the Districts within its bounds—instead of appointing at each District Meeting in May a member of the Sabbath-school Committee of the Conference—such Secretaries to be appointed in the same manner as the Financial Secretaries are now appointed. The duties of such Secretaries shall be as follows:—

1. In connection with the Chairman and Financial Secretary, to arrange a programme for the District Conven-

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STATISTICAL REPORT OF METHODIST SABBATH SCHOOLS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF

CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1878.

tion, carrying out therein any directions which the previous District convention may have given, as far as possible.

2. To keep in a book provided for the purpose the minutes of the District convention, and be responsible for the cerrectness of the District Sabbath-school Schedule.

3. Superintendents of circuits shall furnish to the District Sabbath-school Secretary the Schedules containing the report of their schools immediately after the May Quarterly official meeting, from which he shall at once fill up the District Schedule, and be prepared to place the information which it contains before the District Meeting so soon as it may be called for. These Secretaries shall constitute the Sabbath-school Committee of the Conference. Immediately after the term of their office ceases, they shall hand over to their successors all books and papers belonging to said office.

#### ANNUAL COLLECTION.

In order to carry out these various objects with efficiency, we would request the General Conference to direct that a collection be taken up in all our congregations for the General Conference Sabbath-school Fund in the month of July in each and every year, or at such other time as the Conference may judge most expedient. Such collection to be paid to the Financial Secretary of the District, and reported to the credit of the Circuits in the Minutes of the Annual Conferences.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the General Sabbath-school Fund to publish an annual statement in the Minutes of each Annual Conference, of the receipts and expenditure of the Board.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

W. KENNEDY, Chairman pro tem. A. ANDREWS, Secretary.

Montreal, Sept. 9, 1878.

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# STATISTICAL REPORT OF METHODIST SABBATH SCHOOLS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1878.

No. of Schools open whole year.		350 341 155 34 70	52 1002	<b>8</b> 80 <b>1</b> 22
Teachers' Meeting for Study of Lessons.		002 002 002 002 002 002 002 002 002 002	208	22
Vo. of Schools using Uniform Lessons.			120	107
MONEYS RAISED BY SCHOOLS.	For General	\$201 69 330 88 66 66 34 29 18 57	\$713 76	
	For School	\$13146 64 16104 50 5086 92 2130 67 2515 68 595 91		
PAPERS.	Do. Other.	7457 13758 5356 23566 23566 23566 23566	000	5094
02	Do. Banner.	1884 1987 713 83 83 83 83 83	4785	43
LIBRARIES & S.	Copies of S. S. Advocate	5785 6041 2111 290 290 295 90		
	Total Volumes in Libraries.	$\begin{array}{c} 68288 \\ 76570 \\ 34285 \\ 14898 \\ 17958 \\ 17958 \end{array}$	214681 234874	20193
SCHOLARS.	Learning. Catechisms.	4200 7266 3486 1713 2892 2892 2892	22298 22449	151
	Meeting in Olass.	4758 5519 2155 702 1083 824	15041	442
	No. of Conver's during Year.	1613 1523 880 316 316 445	5748	664
	өзгэүд өзгарганд	25242 30473 12178 5951 6740 4473	85051 81208	3843
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OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.	Ачегаде. Ачелавие.	$\begin{array}{c} 3703\\ 4595\\ 1950\\ 817\\ 1002\\ 594\end{array}$	12761	762
	.IstoT	4633 5735 5735 2310 1011 1307 738	15734 14991	743
	Non-Mem'rs.	721 726 307 197 274 274 148	2373 2310	63
	Members of Meth. Church.	3912 5008 2003 814 1033 590	13361 12681	680
No. of Schools.		508 532 293 147 164 89	1733	113
No. of Preaching Appointments.		954 751 679 399 366 231	3380 3318	62
	NAMES OF CONFERENCES.	Toronto. London	1878	Increase

ALFRED ANDREWS, Secretary.

FUND SCHOOL SABBATH CONFERENCE GENERAL

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47 8 322 91 79 526 04 00 \$1553 42 \$2146 21 School Fund, with Vouchers of Disbursements \$263 441 592 ToTAL. Supplying Rev. Mr. Andrews' Work and other Delp. 8 8 \$146 46 100 17 32 58 10 11 \$144 Sundry Petties. \$ 47 24 67 39 94 15 30 'səsuəd 112 5 \$185 65 Travelling Ex--CB. Advertising. 80 02 74 23 8 pus CONTRA. 3 00 \$59 33 17 Postage, Freight 65 18 18 10 Stationery and Printing. 127 \$277 26\$ 52August 31st, 1878.-By Balance 36 21 \$308 67 \$64 57 'smett Sabbath \$62 subensllepsiM 07 22 40 72 .gurwon 136 74 168 -niW Tor shood General Conference 56 8 59 16 \$368 \$70 236Grants of Books. 61 1875... 1876. 1878. Year. 1877. 65 60 \$323 08 52 65 28 \$2095 34 37 \$2146 21 of the 35 TOTAL. 9 00 486 591 \$694 69 8 80 68 00 October, 1876.-Collection in Richmond St. Church. .buslbnuolweN \$197 \$26 40 20 60 85 \$90 86 \$82 63 10 24 29 New Brunswick. 222634 8 61 25 8 -DR. RITODE BYON \$41 22 26-Premium on Gold **Books Returned** 56 34 66 29 CASH. \$227 \$60 Montreal. 61 39 666 54 50 03 13 88 \$120 213 \$947 London. 283 330 68 16 24 69 22 \$548 Toronto. \$74 145 127 201 ÷ 1875. Tear. 1876. 1878. 1877

JAMES PATERSON. We have examined the Treasurer's Statement and found the same to be correct. TORONTO, 31st August, 1878.

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# METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

THE BOOK AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS.

I. THE BOOK COMMITTEE--ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

1. The General Conference shall, quadrennially, appoint a Book Committee, consisting of thirty-seven members, to be composed of ministers and laymen, residing within the bounds of the several Annual Conferences as follows :---The Toronto Conference, nine members; the London Conference, nine members; the Montreal Conference, seven members; the Nova Scotia Conference, five members; the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, five members; and the Newfoundland Conference, two members; who shall be elected by the delegates of the several Conferences, together with the Book Stewards and Editors.

2. Immediately after its appointment, the Book Committee shall meet, and make such arrangements as it may deem expedient, for the efficient working of the different Book and Publishing Establishments of the Church.

3. At the first meeting after its appointment the Book Committee shall divide into two Sections, to be called respectively the "Western" and "Eastern" Sections of the Book Committee.

4. The Western section shall consist of the members residing within the bounds of the Toronto, London, and Montreal Conferences; thirteen of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. The Eastern section shall consist of the members residing within the bounds of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland Conferences; seven of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. The Western section shall have the control and supervision of the Book and Printing Establishment in the city of

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We have examined the Treasurer's Statement and found the same to be correct. TORONTO, 31st August, 1878.

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Toronto, and of any other that may be established by the General Conference within the bounds of the Toronto, London, or Montreal Conferences.

6. The Eastern section shall have the control and supervision of the Book and Printing Establishment in the city of Halifax, and of any other that may be established by the General Conference within the bounds of the Nova Scotia New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland Conferences.

7. Each section shall elect its own Secretary, and, in the absence of the President and Vice-President of the General Conference, appoint its own Chairman.

(a) The Eastern Section and the Western Section of the Book Committee shall meet annually, on the third Wednesday in May, at their respective Book-rooms, when they shall fill up any vacancies that may have occurred in their numbers during the year. (b) They shall examine the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the business of each establishment during the preceding year. (c) They shall annually appoint suitable persons to audit the accounts, and prepare a full and clear report, to be laid before the Annual Conferences which they respectively represent, and at the last annual meeting of the quadrennial period, prepare a report for the General Book Committee, to be laid before the General Conference. (d) They shall fix the salary of the Book Steward or Book Stewards, and Editor or Editors, and provide the Editor of the Guardian such assistance as in their judgment he shall need in his work. (e) Each section shall have authority to suspend either a Book Steward or Editor, for incompetency, or for culpable neglect of the duties of his office, and to supply his place until the next General Conference; provided always, that no such suspension shall take place except by the vote of three-fourths of the members of the section. (f) In case of the death, resignation, or permanent disability of a Book Steward, or Editor, during his term of office, the section having supervision of the establishment in which such vacancy occurs, shall have power to appoint a successor to fill the office until the next General Conference.

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8. At the end of each quadrennial term each section shall cause a correct valuation of the real property, stock, machinery, debts, and other property to be made, entering such property at its actual value, and report the same to the General Committee, to be laid before the General Conference.

9. A special meeting of the members of either Section may be called by the Book Steward and Editor, or by the Secretary, on the written request of any three members.

10. For the present, all real estate and other property connected with the Book and Printing Establishment in the city of Toronto, and any other that may be acquired within the bounds of the Toronto, London, or Montreal Conferences, shall be vested in the Western Section of the Book Committee and their successors, who shall apply all profits, not required in the business, exclusively for the benefit of the Superannuation Fund within the bounds of the aforesaid Conferences.

11. For the present, all property connected with the Book and Printing Establishment in the city of Halifax, and any other that may be acquired within the bounds of the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland Conferences, shall be vested in the Eastern Section of the Book Committee and their successors, who shall apply all profits, not required in the business, exclusively for the benefit of the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.

12. Each Section of the Book Committee shall also at its first meeting, and at each subsequent annual meeting, appoint an Executive Committee, which shall meet quarterly and review the business of the preceding quarter; and shall advise and decide in all matters demanding their consideration.

13. The Executive Committee of the Western Section shall consist of nine members,—five to constitute a quorum, —four of whom shall be selected from the Toronto Conference, three from the London Conference, and two from the Montreal Conference, with the Book Steward and Editors.

14. The Executive Committee of the Eastern Section shall consist of five members,—three of whom shall constitute a quorum,—who shall be selected from those members of the Eastern Section residing in the vicinity of the Book-room, in Halifax, with the Book Steward and Editor.

15. Each Executive Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and Secretary, and keep a correct record of the business transacted at its meetings; which shall be submitted to the respective Sections of the Book Committee, at their annual meeting.

16. All books which may be published by order of the General Conference, under the direction of any one of the existing Book Establishments, shall be furnished to the other Establishment at cost.

17. The Eastern and Western Sections shall each, at the close of the quadrennial period, carefully review the Book and Publishing Business, within its jurisdiction, of the preceding four years, and prepare a full report of the same ; and those members of the Book Committee who shall be elected delegates to the next General Conference shall meet at the time and place, when and where, the said Conference shall be held, and prepare a united Report, to be presented to the Conference.

#### II.---THE BOOK STEWARDS.

1. The General Conference shall elect a Book Steward, who shall have charge of the Book and Printing Establishment in Toronto, under the direction of the Western Section of the Book Committee; and also a Book Steward, who shall have charge of the Book and Printing Establishment in Halifax, under the direction of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee.

2. It shall be the duty of each Book Steward to purchase all materials and books required for the establishment under his charge, keeping in view the mental wants of the Church and the religious instruction of the people generally. Nevertheless, before purchasing plant or materials for improvement, involving unusual expenditure, he shall obtain the

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purchase ent under e Church . Neverimprovetain the consent of the Executive Committee. He shall give the Committee such information as they may require concerning the state of the business, and present a quarterly statement of the affairs of the establishment to the Executive Committee. He shall also present annually, to the meeting of his section of the Book Committee, a balance sheet, exhibiting the financial state of the Book Room and periodicals, together with a cash account, showing the sources whence the money has been received, and the purposes for which it has been paid.

3. Each Book Steward shall conduct the business of his department in the most efficient and economical manner, and pay over to the Treasurer of the Superannuation or Supernumerary Fund such proportions of the profits as the respective sections of the Book Committee may determine.

# III .- THE EDITORS AND THEIR DUTIES.

1. The General Conference shall elect, by ballot, an Editor, who shall have the editorial management of the *Christian Guardian*; and an Editor who shall have the editorial management of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* and Sabbathschool rublications; and also an Editor who shall have the editorial management of the Halifax Wesleyan.

2. It shall be the duty of the Editors not only to make these periodicals soundly Scriptural and instructive, but also to put forth all reasonable effort to render our Sundayschool papers highly attractive and interesting to the young; they shall likewise carefully supervise the printing of all books and periodicals published at the respective Book Rooms.

3. The Book Stewards and Editors elected by the General Conference, shall hold office for four years, and shall be eligible for re-election; but they shall continue in office, after the appointment of their successors, till the meeting of the Annual Conferences to which they belong.

4. It is required that in all matters respecting the publication of the periodicals, the Book Steward and Editor shall act in harmony.

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Your Committee has had under consideration the Quadrennial Report of the Western Section of the Book Committee, and recommends the adoption by the General Conference of all of said Report except the concluding sentence of the third paragraph from the end, beginning, "However necessary," &c.

2. Your Committee has also considered the Quadrennial Report of the Eastern Section of the Book Committee, and recommends its adoption by the General Conference.

3. That the widows of ministers residing within the limits of the Eastern Section shall have the *Wesleyan* sent to them free of charge, and ministers' widows residing in the West shall have the *Guardian* sent free.

4. That all ministers in the three Western Conferences shall receive the *Guardian* for \$1.00 a-year, and that all ministers in the three Eastern Conferences shall receive the *Wesleyan* for \$1.00 a-year; and that the matter of premiums be left to the respective Book Committees.

5. That, under present circumstances, your Committee cannot recommend the immediate establishment of a Branch Book Room either in St. John, New Brunswick, or St. John's, Newfoundland, but suggests that the matter be referred to the Eastern Section of the Book Committee, with power to act in either case, so soon as it deem it safe and advisable to do so.

6. Your Committee has also duly considered a resolution of the Montreal Conference, in reference to the publication of a religious newspaper in the Province of Quebec, and recommends the following resolution :---

That, in the judgment of the Committee, however desirable it may be to establish a religious newspaper in the interests of Methodism in the Province of Quebec, owing to the continued commercial depression of the country, and for other causes, it is not considered safe or expedient to recommend assent to the prayer of the resolution of the Montreal Conference by this General Conference; never-

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The Pres dents of the the transfer Conference tions :—-

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theless, it is desirable that the Book Committee of the Western Section be empowered to make arrangements for a regular correspondent, resident in the Province of Quebec.

7. Your Committee has also had under consideration a Memorial from the London Conference, requesting that the form of the *Guardian* be changed from an eight page to a sixteen page form, and recommends that it is inexpedient at present to make such change.

Respectfully submitted.

S. D. RICE, Chairman. D. D. CURRIE, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

(As amended and adopted by the Conference.)

## TRANSFERS.

The President of the General Conference and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall be a Committee for the transfer of ministers and preachers from one Annual Conference to another, subject to the following regulations :---

1. All communications from Presidents of Annual Conferences, in relation to transfers to or from their bounds, and from brethren who desire a transfer, shall be sent to the President of the General Conference not later than the thirty-first day of March in each year.

2. The President of the General Conference shall notify the President of each Annual Conference of all proposed or desired transfers to or from his Conference, not later than the fifteenth day of April in each year, and the President shall immediately notify any member of his Conference affected by such proposed transfer.

3. A proposal to transfer a minister, who has not requested it, may be made by any member of the Transfer Committee ; provided that, in every case, notice of such pro 13

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posal to transfer shall be given to the brother concerned at least one month before the meeting of the Transfer Committee. Provided also that he shall have the right to state his case in writing, and the President of the General Conference shall lay such statement before the Transfer Committee.

4. The Committee shall have authority to transfer ministers for a definite term of six or nine years, such ministers to have the right of returning at the end of the period, to the Conference from which they were transferred, should they so desire. This regulation shall not apply to men transferred at their own request.

5. Wherever a Circuit requests the appointment of a minister from another Conference, the Quarterly Meeting of such Circuit shall pay the moving expenses. Ministers transferred at their own request shall pay their own moving expenses. Those transferred at the request of the Missionary Authorities shall receive their moving expenses from the Mission Fund.

6. The Transfer Committee shall have the authority to fix the date at which the transfer shall take effect.

7. Each minister or preacher transferred shall be subject to the action of the Stationing Committee of the Conference to which he is transferred.

8. The ultimate financial claims of any brother transferred shall not be affected by such transfer.

9. The Secretary of the Transfer Committee shall, immediately after the rising of the Committee, report to the Secretary of each Annual Conference affected, all transfers to and from such Conference, and the date at which such transfers shall take place.

10. The decisions of the Committee in all cases of transfer shall be final.

11. The Annual meeting of the Committee shall be held on the day and at the place which the President of the General Conference may appoint.

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12. In case there be a Conference to or from which no transfer is proposed or desired in any given year, the representative from such Conference shall not be under obligation to attend the meeting of the Transfer Committee for that year.

#### STATIONING COMMITTEE.

On the composition and work of the Stationing Committee, your Committee have received three memorials, and in reply thereto, recommends that no change be now made.

EXTENSION OF TIME OF MINISTERIAL SERVICE.

Several Memorials in favour of an extension of the term of ministerial service received the careful consideration of your Committee, but in view of all the necessities of our work, the Committee does not see its way clear to recommend any change in our present law.

All of which is respectfully submitted

JOHN POTTS, Chairman. GEORGE H. CORNISH, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE HYMN BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed by the General Conference of 1874 to revise the present Hymn-book, and to select and arrange materials for a new edition, held their first meeting in the Methodist Church, in the city of Quebec, on the 17th day of July, 1878, and continued in session till Tuesday, the 23rd of the same month. Of the members appointed by the General Conference, the following were present :—

Rev. E. Ryerson, D. D., LL. D.

- " E. H. Dewart.
- " N. Burwash, S.T.D.
- A. Sutherland.
- " Wm. Williams.

Rev. James Caswell.

- " Geo. Douglas, LL.D.
- " Chas. Stewart, D.D.
- " J. Lathern.
- ' J. McMurray.

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It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to say that the members of the Committee were deeply impressed with both the difficulty and the importance of the work which had been committed to them. To revise a hymn-book, the greater part of which had been compiled by our venerable Founder himself, and around which clustered the sacred associations of a hundred years; and to prepare a volume which, while preserving the essential features of the old book, would meet the reasonable demands of the age and adequately voice the penitence and devotion, the faith and hope of a living Church for many years to come, was felt to be an undertaking beset with no ordinary difficulties. But believing that the resolution of the General Conference was the expression of a general conviction and a widely-felt want, the Committee, in an earnest and prayerful spirit, addressed themselves to the task which the Conference had assigned them.

Before proceeding to the actual work of revision, the Committee adopted certain general principles to guide them in their work. It was agreed that each hymn should be read carefully, verse by verse ; that no hymn should be omitted, abridged, or changed by less than a two-thirds vote of the members present ; and that no change whatever should be made in those hymns which, by long and frequent use, had endeared themselves to our people. It was also agreed that in the selection of new hymns, special attention should be given to increase the number of hymns suitable for public worship and for special occasions, and that particular regard be had in such selections to doctrinal soundness and lyrical harmony.

On proceeding to a careful examination of the present Hymn-book it was found,—

1. That a considerable number of the hymns in the present collection are rarely or never sung in any of our congregations—some, because they are unsuitable for public worship; some, because their great length deters ministers from using them. As devotional poetry, some of them are good; but the Committee considered that their duty was not so much to provide a book of devotional poetry for

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private reading, as a book of sacred song for public worship, and that any hymn which, after a test of one hundred years, had proved itself unsuitable for use in our services had thereby forfeited its claim to a place in our Church psalmody, and might very safely be omitted.

In regard to hymns good in themselves, but too long for use in public worship, a remedy was sought in one of three ways :---

(1) By omitting one or more of the weaker or less-used verses, where this could be done without breaking the connection, or leaving out any really valuable stanza.

(2) By dividing the hymn into two, where the sentiment would admit of it.

(3) By arranging in first and second parts, without separate numbers. This was done where the hymn, from intrinsic merit or association, could not well be omitted, and where the connection of sentiment would not admit of its being divided into two separate hymns.

2. It was also found that there were verses, and occasionally entire hymns, referring to the crucifixion of our Saviour, that were objectionable on account of their intense literalness; that is, undue, and therefore misleading, prominence had been given by the authors to the merely physical sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ,—to the scourging, the piercing nail, the crown of thorns,—as though these constituted the main aspects of the atonement. It was deemed advisable, therefore, that such hymns or verses should be omitted.

3. Again, in not a few hymns were found expressions which have now become obsolete, or at least are not now used in the same sense as formerly. Where these could not be replaced by suitable words, it was judged best to omit the verse.

4. A very few hymns and stanzas were found to be objectionable on doctrinal grounds. Such a statement may excite surprise, and demands some explanation. Such explanation is to be found in the fact that the Wesleys, in

the plenitude of their charity, and for the sake of peace, at one period made large concessions to those who differed from them in regard to unconditional election and the extent of the atonement,—concessions which afterwards led John Wesley to ask in Conference, "Have we not leaned too much towards Calvinism?" Traces of this excessive charity still linger in a few hymns even in Mr. Wesley's collection, while one or two have crept into the supplement, in which some of the most dangerous errors of Plymouthism are implied or expressed. Now, it was felt that in a hymnbook which claims to be a "body of experimental and practical divinity," it was needful to exercise the utmost care in the matter of doctrinal teaching, and that the wiser course was to omit such hymns and stanzas as gave even an uncertain sound on the cardinal doctrines of Holy Scripture.

5. Finally, a few hymns were found to contain sentiments the use of which, except on very rare occasions, could not be justified, and hence it was judged best that most of these should be omitted.

As a result of the careful revision to which the present Hymn-book has been subjected, the Committee have decided to recommend the omission of about 130 entire hymns, and of verses amounting in the aggregate to about 75 hymns more, estimating each hymn at five stanzas of four lines each. This will eliminate from the present collection all unsuitable hymns, and leave room for the introduction of all the really valuable hymns that can be gathered from other sources.

Your Committee discussed, with a good deal of care, the method of classification to be adopted in the new Hymn Book. It is well known that the present book consists of three parts—the Hymn-book proper, the Additional Hymns, and the Supplement, and that these are separately classified; but the Committee believed it to be unnecessary, as well as out of harmony with their instructions, to continue this cumbrous method. Furthermore, they were convinced that the usefulness of the book would largely depend upon a good arrangement, which will give every hymn its proper place, according to its subject. It was, therefore, resolved that

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the whole of the hymns finally selected for the new book be carefully classified and arranged under suitable headings, and the number of each hymn made prominent. The classification adopted, subject to modification, is as follows :---

PART I.—HYMNS OF ADORATION.

PART II.—THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His Person, Offices, and Work. The hymns in this part to be arranged in natural order, but without subdivisions.

PART III .- THE HOLY SPIRIT.

PART IV.-REPENTANCE AND CONVERSION.

- 1. Exhorting sinners to return to God.
- 2. The Provisions of the Gospel.
- 3. Penitence and Trust (including hymns for Backsliders).

PART V.-THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- 1. Rejoicing.
- 2. Praying.
- 3. Watching.
- 4. Conflict and Suffering.
- 5. Working.
- 6. Full Salvation.
- 7. The Hope of Heaven.

PART VI.—CHRISTIAN ORDINANCES AND INSTITUTIONS.

- 1. The Word of God.
- 2. The Lord's Day.
- 3. The House of God.
- 4. The Christian Ministry.
- 5. Baptism.
- 6. The Lord's Supper.

PART VII.—THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

PART VIII.—Social AND FAMILY WORSHIP. This part to include hymns for Love-feast, Class Meetings, Prayer Meetings, Family Worship, etc.

PART IX.-DEATH AND THE FUTURE STATE.

## PART X.—HYMNS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS, such as Watch-Night, New Year, Renewing the Covenant, Patriotic, Harvest Home, Temperance, Charities, etc.

# PART XI.—DOXOLOGIES. To be numbered separately.

# PART XII.—CHANTS AND ANTHEMS. To be numbered separately.

Some progress was made in the selection of new hymns, and the remainder of the work was remitted to a future meeting, awaiting, in the meanwhile, further instructions from the General Conference.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

#### A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLASS MEETINGS.

The Committee on Class-meetings beg to report, that the following papers have been referred to them, viz. :---

1. A Memorial from the Halifax District, N. S. Conference, desiring the General Conference to declare definitely the basis of membership in our Church.

2. A resolution of the Rev. L. Hooker, of the Montreal Conference, referring to ministers who consider it detrimental to the interest of the Church to enforce the Discipline concerning attendance at Class-meetings, and requesting the General Conference to declare what course should be pursued in the case.

Your Committee having carefully considered these papers, and having given their most earnest and prayerful attention to the general subject to which they refer, do not find any sufficient reason to warrant them in recommending any legislation, either on the subject of Class-meetings or Classmeeting attendance.

From the evidence which has been brought before them, they cannot resist the conviction, that, in some localities at

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least, the spiritual interests of individual sculs and the efficiency of the Church as a soul-saving institution have suffered much from the irregular attendance of some upon this means of grace, and its habitual neglect by others; but they are of opinion that these evils cannot be removed by mending our rules but by keeping them. What we want is not new machinery but a more faithful and conscientious use of that which we already possess. What is needed to make the Class-meeting even a more powerful instrument of usefulness than it has ever yet been, is not, in the opinion of your Committee, the adoption of any new rule, or the alteration of any rule now existing, but greater fidelity on the part of pastors and leaders, and a deeper spirit of consecration on the part of the members of the Church.

Respectfully submitted.

J. H. ROBINSON, Chairman.

R. ALDER TEMPLE, Secretary.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE SUPERAN-NUATION FUND.

The Superannuation Fund Committee beg to report as follows :---

1. The Committee recommend that the Superannuation Fund Board's Report to the General Conference be adopted.

2. The Investments by the Board are satisfactory, and are as follows :---

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	I rustees of Metropolitan Church 1000	00		
	J. Macdonald, M.P. 5000	00		
	Ingersoll Road Stock 122	00		
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3. The subject presented by S. S. Junkin, Esq., urging an alteration in the system of payments to claimants, cannot be recommended by the Committee to the General Conference for adoption.

4. Recommendation No. 2 from the Superannuation Board, and which is as follows, viz. :—" That when the income of the Superannuation Fund be insufficient to enable the Treasurers to pay each claimant ten-twelfths of his legitimate claim, then the 5 per cent. authorized to be funded as capital investment shall not be withdrawn from the income of the year for disbursement among the several claimants, and the surplus alone, if any, shall be carried forward to the capital account." It is recommended that, instead of the above, the 5 per cent. be retained, as at present.

5. In regard to recommendation No. 3, which is as follows, viz.:—" It is recommended that the annual subscription paid by each minister be henceforth paid in advance : and that our lay friends be earnestly requested to do the same." It was resolved to recommend the Conference to enact that one-half or more of the ministers' and preachers' annual subscriptions be paid on or before the Financial District Meeting, and the other half or balance, if any, be paid at the May District Meeting.

6. It is recommended that the Treasurers be not authorized to pay the travelling expenses of Superannuated ministers attending the Annual Conferences.

7. Recommendation No. 4 from the Superannuation Board is recommended by the Committee for adoption by the General Conference, as follows :—" That in every case

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where a minister commutes his claim, he shall have no future claim, even though he should re-enter the effective work. It is understood that in commuting, all claims, not only for himself, but also for his wife and children, are thereby cancelled."

8. Recommendation No. 5 from the Board, as follows :---"That Superannuated Ministers, temporarily employed, and receiving payment from the Missionary or Contingent Fund for service, or for any connexional work, shall pay the annual subscription to the Superannuation Fund in proportion to term." This is recommended for adoption by the General Conference.

9. Your Committee recommend that the Conference Treasurers be dispensed with, and that all moneys for this Fund shall be paid to the Financial Secretary, and by him be forwarded, without delay, to the General Treasurer.

10. The Committee heartily recommend the 7th recommendation of the Board, which is as follows :—" That when a minister, who shall have been in the effective work for thirty years and upwards, shall die while in the effective work, or while superannuated, leaving no wife as a claimant upon the Fund, but leaving a child or children helpless or unprovided for, the Board shall have authority to make such provision as shall be deemed equitable. Nevertheless, in no case shall it be competent to appropriate any sum beyond four-fifths of what would have been the claim of the deceased minister as a superannuated minister at the time of his death; and such payment shall be made only for such period as may be deemed proper and necessary."

11. The question of the relation of the Superannuation and Supernumerary Funds to the Missionary Society having been referred to a Special Committee, the report of said Committee, and a resolution based thereon, is here inserted in lieu of the recommendation previously submitted by your Committee :---

"That Missionaries who have travelled on circuits of such a character as to give no support to those Funds, have legitimate claims on the Missionary Fund,—claims that have been acknowledged for many years; that, in order

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that those claims may be equitably adjusted, the Conference instruct that grants be made to the Superannuation Fund and the Supernumerary Fund in the proportion of sixsevenths to the Superannuation and one-seventh to the Supernumerary Fund, on condition that these Funds pro vide for the allowance of these Missionaries in accordance with the rules of the said Funds."

Resolved,—That not more than \$7,000, and not less than \$4,000 per annum be appropriated, in accordance with the preceding report, during the ensuing quadrennium.

12. The claims of a minister on the Superannuation Fund shall not be prejudiced by his having been engaged in the service of any Department, Society, or Corporation within or without the Church, provided such service is rendered by the appointment, or with the consent, of his Conference.

13. We earnestly recommend the members and friends of the Church to make bequests to the Superannuation Fund for permanent endowment, and to use the following language in making such bequests : -

I give and bequeath to the Superannuation Fund of the Methodist Church of Canada ——— dollars, to be paid to the Treasurers of the said Fund, out of my personal estate, immediately after my death.

14. Your Committee nominate the following as the Board of the Superannuation Fund for the ensuing quadrennium :—

Rev. Geo. Douglas, LL.D. " J. Elliott, D.D. 66 A. Green, D.D. 66 S. D. Rice, D.D. 66 S. Rose, D.D. " W. S. Griffin. " R. Jones. " J. Douse. " W. Tindall. " J. T. Pitcher Sheriff Patrick. Respectfully submitted,

Hon. J. C. Aikins. "T. N. Gibbs. "James Ferrier. John Macdonald. R. Wilkes. James Paterson. A. Johnston. S. S. Junkin. T. McCormick. W. E. Sanford. Dr. Lavell.

Anson Green, Chairman. G. R. SANDERSON, Secretary. 3 Gen Boa Tre any qua vaca qua Con dete amo

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CONSTITUTION OF THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

1. The name of this Fund shall be called the Superannuation Fund of the Methodist Church of Canada, Western Section.

2. This Fund shall be managed by a Board, composed of twenty-four members, twelve of whom shall be laymen, who are members of the Church.

3. The members of the Board shall be elected by the General Conference for a term of four years, which said Board shall appoint its own Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurers. In case of death or other disqualification of any member of the Superannuation Board during the quadrennium, the Board is authorized to fill up the said vacancy from the section affected by such death or disqualification.

4. The Board shall have full authority, according to the Constitution, by-laws, and regulations of the Fund, to determine the number of years to be allowed, and the amount due to each regular claimant; and to make such appropriations in all special cases as they may consider in their judgment right and proper.

#### SOURCES OF INCOME.

This Fund shall consist of the annual income arising :----

1. From the interest of such moneys as may have been, or may be invested in its behalf.

2. From subscriptions and donations taken annually in the classes, and among the lay friends of the Church during the months of November and December, the amount to be remitted to the Treasurer on or before the first day of January in each year.

3. From an Annual Public Collection, which shall be taken up in aid of this Fund in all our congregations in the months of November and December.

4. From the Annual Subscriptions of all our ministers and probationers in the active work, which shall not be less than ten dollars each, one-half to be paid to the Financial Secretary at the Financial District Meeting, and the other half at the May District Meeting; and by him immediately thereafter to be remitted to the Treasurer of the Superannuation Fund.

5. From such moneys as may be appropriated from the profits of the Book and Printing Establishments.

6. From Bequests and Legacies made to the Fund.

7. That all Bequests and Legacies be reserved and invested for the Invested Endowment Fund.

#### CLAIMANTS.

1. The period for computing ministers' claims upon the Superannuation Fund shall commence from the term of their being received by the Conference for our work.

2. The claims of a minister on the Fund shall not be prejudiced by his having been engaged in the service of any Department, Society, or Corporation, within or without the Church, provided such service is rendered by the appointment, or with the consent, of his Conference.

3. All ministers hereafter coming to us from other Churches shall be allowed a claim upon the Fund according to the number of years they shall have travelled in connection with our Conference.

4. When a married man is received on trial by an Annual Conference, the widow of such minister shall have no claim for the first five years of his ministry among us.

5. No minister shall be allowed more than four years' claim before being received into full connexion and ordained.

6. When a superannuated minister has commuted his claim, and that of his widow, he shall not be allowed any further claims on this Fund, although he may return to the effective work by permission of the Annual Conference.

7. When a superannuated minister, who is a limited claimant, and shall have received the full amount of his

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# 1378. METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

claim on the Fund, and is restored to the active work, the claim of such shall date only from his recommencement as an effective minister in our work.

8. When a minister dies, who was employed in the active work thirty or more years, and leaves no claimant widow, but has a child or children unprovided for, the Central Board is authorized to make such provision for the support of such, as the necessities of the case may seem to require. Nevertheless the amount shall not be more than the widow would have been allowed, and only for such a period as they may deem proper and necessary.

#### SCALE OF PAYMENTS.

1. Every superannuated minister who has travelled effectively in our work fifteen years and upwards shall have a sum of twelve dollars per annum for each year of such effective service.

2. Every superannuated minister who has travelled ten years, and less than fifteen years, shall have a claim of twelve dollars for each year of effective service he may have rendered, said payments to continue for five years only.

3. The case of superannuated ministers who have travelled less than ten years shall be referred to the Board of this Fund for consideration and adjustment

4. Any minister who may locate and enter into secular business, and subsequently be received into the Conference, shall not be allowed any claim for the time previous to his location.

5. The Board shall have power, upon the recommendation of an Annual Conference, to commute with such ministers as may be superannuated from causes which do not disqualify them for secular business, by payment of such sums as may be deemed equitable, instead of allowing them to become permanent claimants upon the Superannuation Fund.

6. Ministers who retire temporarily from the work on account of ill-health, or accident, while they receive from the Superannuation Fund, may also receive from the Con-

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tingent Fund or the Missionary Fund, or any other Connexional Fund, for service rendered in the regular, or missionary work. Nevertheless, in all such cases the minister shall be required to contribute twelve dollars annually to the Superannuation Fund while thus employed.

7. Any minister who may be expelled from the Conference, or shall hereafter leave our effective work for other employment, shall thereby forfeit the amount which he may have paid into the Superannuation Fund.

8. Widows of deceased ministers, being members of our Church, shall receive four-fifths of the amount their husbands would have received according to the foregoing scale, except such widows as were fifteen years younger than their husbands, and were married after their husbands were fifty-five years of age, whose case shall be referred to the Board.

9. Provided always, that when the claims upon this Fund for any year shall exceed the income of such year, all claimants shall have deducted from the amount of their claims, such a sum as shall be equal to a *pro rata* amount of such deficiency.

10. Each subscriber of five dollars or more, annually, to the Fund, shall have his or her name printed in the Minutes of Conference, and shall receive a copy of the Minutes gratis; and subscribers of twenty-five dollars and upwards shall each receive a copy of the bound Minutes of the three Western Conferences.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CON-. TINGENT FUND.

Your Committee respectfully recommend :---

1. That in Section V., clause 5, page 120, the words "aid to Circuits, or" be expunded.

2. That Section V., clauses 9 and 10, page 121, be expunged and the following substituted therefor :---

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

(1) The Financial Secretaries shall pay over the moneys of this fund to the Annual Conference Treasurers on the day before Conference, and the Annual Conference Treasurers shall account for the same to the General Treasurers on settlement.

(2) The General Treasurers shall make their division of the fund between the several Conferences on an estimate of the income of the year.

3. They further recommend that the following clause be inserted in the Discipline :----

In cases of ministerial supply on account of affliction, where the Circuits are competent, the expenses of such supply shall be paid by such Circuits, and in no case shall the Committee consider any claim for more than the salary of a single minister.

4. In reference to the Memorial from the Montreal Conference, asking for a division of the Contingent Fund, this Committee does not recommend any change at present.

5. Your Committee recommends that, for the gradual liquidation of the amount of \$5,570, a debt incurred by the settlement of certain matters connected with the formation of the late union and thrown upon the Contingent Fund by the General Conference Special Committee, or such part of it as may remain after the assets shall be realized, the General Treasurers be authorized to borrow such sum as may be necessary, so that not more than \$600 shall be withheld, in any one year, from the regular division of the Contingent (including the Commutation) Fund among the Conferences concerned.

6. Your Committee recommends for adoption the statement of the General Treasurers of the fund, with the exception of the item of \$377.03 in the payments, marked "Interest on N. C. debt."

7. They further recommend that the Rev. James Gray and Mr. Joseph Lister be re-appointed the General Treasurers of the fund.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. BRIGGS, Chairman. T. S. KEOUGH, Secretary.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

The Committee find that the statistics, given in the minutes of the various Annual Conferences, are so defective, that it is not possible to give a tabulated statement of the property of the Church. The Toronto, London, Montreal, and Nova Scotia Conferences give the number and value of our churches and parsonages, etc.; but the New Brunswick and Newfoundland Conferences have given no data by which to ascertain the value of our denominational possessions within their bounds.

This the Committee greatly deplore, as it is most desirable that there should be a quadrennial statement of our Church Property.

The following recommendation, in response to a Memorial from the London Conference, is respectfully suggested to the Conference for adoption:—

In case of the division of Circuits, in any form involving separate claims on parsonage property, and where an amicable settlement cannot be reached in any other way, it shall be the duty of each Quarterly Official Meeting concerned, to appoint an arbitrator, these two thus chosen shall choose a third, to whom the whole case shall be submitted. In case either of the Circuits concerned fails to appoint an arbitrator, or the two chosen fail to agree upon a third, within one year after said division, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the District to appoint one. The decision of the arbitrators shall be in all cases final.

> Edwin Clement, Chairman. William H. Laird, Secretary.

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## STATISTICS OF CHURCH PROPERTY.

### I.-TORONTO CONFERENCE.

Toronto	33	\$433700	7	\$26700	\$6975
Brampton	57	99550	6	10000	1193
Whitby	61	149460	13	28500	3822
Cobourg	45	128900	13	20200	2068
Belleville	52	157325	16	16700	2389
Picton	35	79300	7	8400	1170
Peterboro'	36	95300	10	9900	919
Lindsay	42	46050	12	15250	1172
Bradford	61	59400	12	14750	1260
Barrie	42	42200	7	9200	9:5
Collingwood	36	36100	12	13556	1010
Jwen Sound	37	44800	9	10450	401
walkerton	30	36775	8	6300	370
Algoma	7	6250	6	4150	155
Ked River	12	15200	3	6000	820
British Columbia	25	50750	8	20200	3425
Totals	611	\$1481060	149	0000050	000104
	011	@1401000	149	\$220256	\$28104

### II.—LONDON CONFERENCE.

DISTRICTS.	Churches.	Value of Churches.	Parsonages.	Value of Parsonages.	Value of Parsonage Furniture.
Hamilton Niagara. Brantford. London St. Thomas Chatham Sarnia Guelph Wellington Goderich	73 61 64 84 56 69 50 52 58 78	\$240840 135400 210650 196100 118400 164850 70100 144560 79900 146700	16 14 20 22 14 16 13 11 10 19	\$43400 30400 31575 40450 16900 16350 12900 15600 13900 30800	\$6925 3470 4130 4256 1796 2030 1710 2609 968 2625
Totals	645	\$1507500	155	\$252275	\$30519

Value of Parsonage Furniture. Parsonages Parsonages of Churches of Churches Value Value ( DISTRICTS. Montreal ..... 43 \$325700 14 \$28000 \$8134 Kingston ..... Brockville.... 65166350 12 12250 2595 18 12 29300 12900 2723152459 135400  $\begin{array}{r}
 49100 \\
 49100 \\
 12450 \\
 148700
 \end{array}$ Perth..... 45 Pembroke..... 2310 9700 1018 Ottawa ..... 50 14 14660 3695 Stanstead ..... 4200 39 142000 17 24000 Quebec ..... 31 80500 12 13400 1615 3 3750 2000 1 619 Totals 358 \$1063950 110 \$146210 \$26123

#### III.---MONTREAL CONFERENCE.

### IV.-NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

DISTRICTS.	No. of Churches.	Parsonages.	Sch l-houses.	Value, Including Lands.
Halifax Truro Cumberland. Guysboro' and C. B Annapolis. Liverpool Yarmouth.	38 21 31 18 31 23 20	9 7 6 6 8 6 7	1 1  1 	\$225700 43900 47800 29430 72900 55000 75500
Totals	182	49	3	\$550230

### V.--NEW BRUNSWICK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CONFERENCE.

No returns. It is estimated there are 170 Churches.

Total Value of Church Property ...... \$450,000.

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Value of Parsonage Furniture.

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\$26123

Including Lands.

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

VI.—NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

No. of Churches.	Value.	No. of Parsonages.	Value.	Value of Other Property.
80	\$122300	21	\$23700	\$20000

Total Value of Church Property ......\$5,922,207Value of Property of Educational In-<br/>stitutions, including Endowments...315,000

Total ..... \$6,237,207

Total Number of Churches, 2,046.

WILLIAM I. SHAW.

## REPORT OF CHILDREN'S FUND COMMITTEE.

Your Committee having carefully considered all the Memorials and resolutions referred to them, and also other matters relating to this Fund, desire to make the following recommendations :---

1. That it is not desirable to abolish the regulations in the Discipline making it obligatory on each Annual Conference to maintain a Children's Fund.

2. That it is impracticable to admit any new class of claimants on this Fund on any principle that would be equitable.

3. That we do not deem it expedient to interfere with the powers of the Annual Conferences, in the control and

management of the Fund, by removing young persons under fifteen years of age, members of the Church, from the operation of the capitation tax, where the Annual Conference raises its Children's Fund in that way.

4. That the following change be made in the section on the Children's Fund, (p. 117, Dis.,) viz., That clause three read,--The claims of children whose fathers are employed on the French, German, or Indian Missions, or in Japan, shall be paid by the Missionary Society; and also that the following be added as clause sixth, viz. The children of Superannuated and of deceased ministers shall continue to be claimants on the Fund of that Conference of which their fathers were members at the time of their superannuation or death.

5. In answer to the question of the Treasurer of the Toronto Conference Children's Fund, referred to this Committee, as to "Whether the children of ministers of the late Methodist New Connexion Church, born while their fathers were on probation, are claimants upon the Children's Fund, and to what extent?"

The Committee is of opinion that the children of such ministers of the late Methodist New Connexion Church, who were born while their fathers were probationers, and received as such at the time of Union, have claims on the Children's Fund only by virtue of the special arrangement referred to on page 118 of the Discipline of 1874, clause 5th of section 3rd, relating to the Children's Fund, and therefore in accordance with the arrangements made for such cases by the Methodist New Connexion Discipline of 1866, page 64, Paternal Fund, clause 8, the claims of such children are to be limited by the provisions therein contained, that is to say, for children under eight years of age, \$12 per annum; and from eight to twelve years, \$20 per annum, when they shall go off the Fund.

W. S. GRIFFIN, Chairman.S. BOND, Secretary.

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

After much thought and prayerful consideration on the subject of Temperance, by which we understand total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, the Committee feel bound to state their solemn convictions and recommendations as follows :---

1. That the subject coming under review is of the greatest, and most vital importance to the interests of our Church. The great and destructive evils of intemperance have often been affirmed and illustrated by reference to statistics, and many facts are recorded which cause us to stand in awe. While we do not, at present, deem it a proper occasion to enter upon any circumstantial statement of these, we have, nevertheless, a firm belief in their truth. There is no more certain road to perdition, than that by which hundreds of thousands of our fellow-men are being led by the use of strong drink. Its deceptive and maddening influences thus stated (Prov. xx. 1), "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise," present it to us as among the most insidious and worst foes, both of the bodies and souls of men. With these views of its character, we cannot but regard the subject as second to no other, as an evil of inconceivable magnitude.

2. We gratefully acknowledge the utility of the various Temperance organizations in assisting to stay the tide of this branch of immorality; and we trust that, as far as practicable, our ministers and people will unite with others in their several localities to help on this good work.

3. We call attention to the recent legislation at Ottawa on this subject, which is the nearest approach to entire prohibition that is found on the statute-books of any Provincial Legislature. We hope that efforts will at once be made in all parts of the Dominion to introduce and practically carry out this timely and well-considered law.

4. Convinced as we are that all mere legal and moral means are insufficient without the power of grace to save

the drunkard, we earnestly recommend that special prominence be given to the religious element in the Temperance enterprise. The Gospel Temperance movement places this cause on the only proper basis. We trust the ministers of our Church will frequently call attention to this, and also in their public devotions lead the congregations in prayer for God's blessing to attend every legitimate effort. Let all take the ground that our Church, according to our General Rules, is a Total Abstinence Society, and thus keep in the strongest bonds of union, that which in reality can never be divorced—the inseparable connection of temperance and true religion.

5. We earnestly commend for universal adoption, that which already exists in very many of our Sabbath-schools, the organization of Juvenile Temperance Associations. We shall thus give to our children, as an essential in their religious training, the idea of Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. We commend the more general introduction of temperance literature into our Sabbath-school libraries. We suggest the importance of devoting some portion of the time to this subject in our District Sabbathschool Conventions.

6. We regard it as of the first importance that our ministers should unite with our official members in banishing from the Lord's table those obnoxious mixtures too often used there, and procure for that blessed purpose only the pure juice of the grape.

7. We gratefully acknowledge the encouraging fact that Temperance truth and practical devotion to the cause are advancing. We still feel the importance of continued and more earnest efforts, especially of an individual character, for the complete removal of the awful curse of intemperance from our fair and goodly land.

> N. R. WILLOUGHBY, Chairman. JOHN HUNT, Secretary.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

Your Committee, appointed to consider the state of the Church, beg leave to Report as follows :---

1. We have had but one document laid before us, viz. :--A resolution requesting that it be made a law of the Church that each minister be required to visit every member of his Church once a quarter. As the object sought by that resolution is sufficiently provided for in the Book of Discipline, pages 66 and 67, we do not consider it necessary to recommend anything additional.

2. In the absence of documents and classified statistics pertaining to the subject under consideration, we have been somewhat perplexed as to the form which our Report should take, so as best to accomplish the purpose of our appointment.

3. Under these circumstances, we beg most respectfully to submit to you the following conclusions to which we have come, after a somewhat careful survey of the condition and operations of our Church during the quadrennium just past.

4. We find that the organic union effected four years ago has been consolidated, and we are convinced that our denomination is one, not only in her ecclesiastical government, but in her doctrines, sympathies, and objects—one in all the Scriptural essentials of church life and power. Generally, our Church is in a healthy state. No arm of her strength is paralyzed; but, on the contrary, the evidences of vitality and energy are everywhere apparent.

5. The ministry, with scarcely an exception, have maintained an uncorruptness in doctrine which, in these times especially, is gratifying to every lover of the truth, while the membership, as a rule, evince soundness in the "faith once delivered to the saints," and an increasing love for the grand old Scriptural doctrines of evangelical Christianity.

6. Though, in respect of doctrine and essential truth, our Church is wisely conservative, yet we rejoice to know that she is thoroughly progressive in her methods and agencies. As a Church, we "let the dead past bary its dead." Our institutions and usages are founded, not upon the effete theories of ancient centuries or the dreamy speculations of mediæval schoolmen, but upon the more sure word of testimony, whereunto we do well that we take heed, following the light of the divine revelation, and the spiritual instincts of a renewed nature, we find ourselves able, by the blessing of God, to maintain our advanced position in the march of human progress.

7. Taking hold of these great verities, and animated by an enlightened zeal, it is not wonderful that our Church has had success. During the four years past, the ministerial force has been strengthened by one hundred and thirty-four accessions, and after making up all losses, there remains an increase of more than twice ten thousand members, while our Sabbath-schools, reinforced by over three thousand officers and teachers, have enrolled within twelve of thirty thousand scholars, over and above the number reported four years ago. From these there have been, during the period under review, introduced to the fellowship of the Church about twenty-one thousand. Truly, as a Church, we have neither labored in vain nor spent our strength for nought. For these successes, we should thank God, and from them take courage to dare and do yet nobler things for Christ.

8. But we would be recreant to duty were we to convey the impression that, in our review, we find no cause for humiliation and no room for improvement. A Church is what its component parts make it, and although there is abundant reason to render praise to the Giver of all good for the past, and indulge hope for the future, yet there are dangers observable which it would be criminal in us to ignore. The questions force themselves upon our attention,—Is there the requisite degree of consecration to God and His service among our ministry? Has it not sometimes been difficult to find, readily, suitable volunteers for our more remote and trying fields of labour ? While our ministry is i it q sion evid self

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is increasing in culture and acceptability to the refined, is it quite as powerful as of old in the awakening and conversion of the outcast and degraded? Is there not occasional evidence of a growing spirit of worldliness and enervating self-indulgence among our people?—an undue conformity to the world, in tastes and sympathies, in forms of recreation, and modes of business? Hence, the means of grace more especially calculated to encourage inward scrutiny and practical sympathy, such as the class and prayer-meetings, are either neglected altogether, or relegated to a secondary place.

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9. In conclusion, we have no new thing to recommend as a specific remedy for existing evils. We are convinced that a return to the old paths, wherever they have been departed from, will reveal the truth that our Church has, within herself, all the factors necessary to success, which but require to be thoroughly appreciated, intelligently adopted, and faithfully utilized in order to ensure a much larger degree of success in our Heaven-appointed mission. Hence, we regard it as of the utmost importance to our future, that, in all our departments, Home and Foreign, Juvenile and General, there should be a renewed consecration to God, and an unselfish and intense devotion of ourselves as a people, and all we possess, to the grand purpose for which God gave His Son, and for which we as a Church exist.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Wellington Jeffers, Chairman. Ebenezer Robson, Secretary.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ŒCUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

Your Committee having met, appointed the Rev. Dr. Green Chairman and the Rev. Dr. Nelles, Secretary.

After much conversation, the tenor of which was favourable to the holding of an Œcumenical Conference or Council, the following recommendations were agreed upon :---

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1. That a Standing Committee of eleven, with the President and Secretary of the Conference, be appointed by this Conference, and that this Committee be instructed to confer or correspond with other branches of the great Methodist family as to the advisability of such a Council, and, if found expedient, to make arrangements for the same.

2. That in the event of the holding of the proposed Council, each Annual Conference shall have power to appoint its share of delegates and shall provide for their expenses.

Your Committee beg to nominate the following as the Standing Committee :---

The President of the General Conference.

The Secretary of the General Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson.

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The Rev. Dr. Nelles. " E. H. Dewart. E.B.Ryckman, M.A. The Hon. James Ferrier. John Macdonald. James Paterson. I. B. Morrow.

ANSON GREEN, Chairman. S. S. NELLES, Secretary.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The Committee on Public Worship beg leave to report, that two papers have been referred to them, both asking for changes in our order and mode of conducting Public Worship, viz. :---

A Memorial from the Quarterly Official Meeting of the Toronto First Circuit, praying the General Conference "to change our Church service, so that the sermon be followed immediately by prayer, and during the singing to omit the practice known as lining the hymns;"

Also a resolution moved by the Rev. Ebenezer Robson. and seconded by the Rev. LeRoy Hooker, in favour of the latter of these changes, namely, the omission of "versing" the hymns during the singing.

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To both these papers and the subjects to which they refer, your Committee have given their most respectful attention and careful consideration, but they are not convinced that either of these proposed alterations would be an improvement on our established order of worship, they do not, therefore, recommend any change.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL ROSE, Chairman. W. S. BLACKSTOCK, Secretary.

## REPORT OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

Your Committee, having carefully considered the resolution of the Rev. Charles Fish, in relation to a Memorial Service in behalf of those delegates of the last General Conference who have since "entered into rest," which was referred to it by the General Conference, beg to report—

1. That while we fully recognize the great loss which our Church has sustained by the lamented death of some of the honoured members of the last General Conference, yet we do not deem it advisable to recommend any such Memorial Service.

2. Whereas it has pleased God to call to his reward our much esteemed and venerable brother, the Rev. Asahel Hurlburt, member elect of this General Conference; that while we bow with reverence to the Divine will, we desire to place on record our high appreciation of Bro. Hurlburt's sterling Christian character and earnest and useful life, and pray that the mantle of our ascending Elijahs may rest upon the Elishas that remain.

3. In reference to a Memorial from Mr. James Paterson, and others of the City of Toronto, in relation to the Book-Steward elect,—

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*Resolved*,—That we do not deem it advisable to recommend this General Conference to take any action in the matter.

> JAMES MCALISTER, Chairman. J. G. LAIRD, Secretary.

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#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARIES**

The Committee on Boundaries herein submit to the General Conference the result of their deliberations on the resolutions entrusted to them to investigate, and express their judgment upon.

1. On the resolution, "That the London, Toronto, and Montreal Conferences be formed into five Conferences, viz. : London, Hamilton, Toronto, Belleville, and Montreal," your Committee are unanimous in the belief that there may be advantages which seem to render necessary a change in the number of Conferences, but they do not deem it expedient to recommend a change just now.

2. On the resolution from the Financial Meeting of the Walkerton District requesting the General Conference to detach the Walkerton District from the Toronto, and attach it to the London Conference, we submit,—That in view of the probable re-adjustment of Conference boundaries it would not be prudent to disturb the relation of the Walkerton District to the Toronto Conference at present.

3. In reference to the resolution asking for a distribution of the Foreign Missionary Districts, this Committee do not deem it advisable to recommend any change in their present relation.

4. We recommend the transfer of the Ebenezer appointment, Shannonville Circuit, Toronto Conference, to Selby Circuit, Kingston District, Montreal Conference.

Respectfully submitted.

D. C. McDowell, Chairman. T. W. JEFFERY, Secretary. -0

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of appointing a day of thanksgiving, beg leave to report,—

That, considering the manifold mercies of God towards us, in the gifts of a bounteous harvest, peace in all our borders, and freedom from pestilence, it is the duty of the people of this Dominion to give thanks to God and bless His holy Name.

1. That participating in these bounties of Providence, it is right and proper that the Methodist Church of Canada should be exemplary in its grateful recognition of the goodness of God.

2. It is therefore recommended,—That if the Dominion Government, or the Governments of the several Provinces, shall appoint a day of thanksgiving, the Presidents of the several Annual Conferences shall take note thereof, and by due notice in our periodicals shall request the Superintendents of Circuits and Missions to observe the same day with appropriate religious services.

3. That if no such appointment be made by the respective Governments, then this General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada does hereby appoint that the last Thursday in November in the present year shall be set apart as a day of praise for abundant providential gifts received, and of prayer that showers of spiritual blessings may plentifully descend on all the Churches of our land; and it shall be the duty of the Presidents of  $t! \Rightarrow$ several Annual Conferences to give due notice of the same in the manner aforesaid.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. SCOTT, Secretary.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Your Committee, after a great amount of work, have succeeded in forming an approximate estimate of the amount of claims upon the General Conference Fund, and the amount of the resources to meet those claims.

The Committee have been much delayed in consequence of the difficulty in securing the proper statements from claimants upon the said fund; and regret to find so great a diversity in the charges of delegates' expenses attending this Conference, when in many instances said delegates come from the same locality.

In cases of such a character, the Committee have, in their judgment, decided upon an amount which they deem sufficient, taking as a comparison the expenses of delegates from the same section of the country, and which they trust will be comprehended as an action upon their part to do justice to every brother, as well as protect the interests of our Church.

The following figures are submitted to the Conference, not as being strictly accurate, but an approximate statement of the amount of claims upon the General Conference Fund, and the amount in hand to meet those claims, viz. :---

General Conference expenses since 1874, incurred by expenses of Fraternal Delegates to other Conferences; expenses of Transfer Committees; expenses of Hymn Book Committee; Interest Money; Incidentals, &c., amounting in the aggregate to say ... ... ... ... \$2,847 81 ... ... Expenses of General Conference now in session. Printing, Stationery, &c. 169 75 ... ... ... ... Approximate Estimate, Delegates' expenses to this General Conference, say 4,500 00 . . . ... ... ... **Total Claims** ... \$7,517 56 ... ...

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#### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

As far as the Committee have been able to ascertain, the amount in hand, to meet that claim of \$7,517.56, is about \$2,700, or, say 28 cents to the dollar, showing a deficit of \$4,817.56.

RECEIPTS IN AID OF GENERAL CONFERENCE FUND.

1874.	Balance in	ha	nd of Treasure	r	 	\$55	99
			Legislature	•••	 	45	00
	"	"	Dr. Douglas	•••	 	12	92
						\$113	91

From Conferences, viz. :

Toronto Confere	ence			\$699	54		
London "		•••	••	1,024			
Montreal "				465			
Nova Scotia "				188			
New Brunswick	and Princ	e Ed	ward		-0		
Island Confer	ence			159	88		
Newfoundland (	Conference	•••			00		
						\$2,609	96

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This state of affairs must certainly convince all of the necessity of both retrenchment in our expenditure, and a very great and immediate effort upon the part of our people to place the General Conference Fund in a better financial position.

Your Committee would recommend that the Treasurer of the General Conference Fund be authorized to negotiate a loan, upon the best possible terms, to meet the above deficiency, that each delegate may receive the amount of his expenses; and that the old debt incurred before this session of the General Conference be provided for.

Your Committee would also recommend that an annual collection be taken in all our congregations in aid of the General Conference Fund.

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Your Committee have to report that the number of Circuits upon which no collection has been taken for General Conference purposes, is as follows :—

Toronto Confe	rence					103	Circuits.
London						19	*1
Montreal	•					80	
Nova Scotia C	onferer	ce				1	
New Brunswic				rd	l Island	<b>2</b>	
Newfoundland	l Confe	rence				<b>2</b>	
Total						207	Circuits ;

And would ask the Conference to direct the General Treasurer to communicate at once with the Treasurers of the several Conferences, in order that said collections may be made and forwarded without delay.

Your Committee would recommend that the Rev. Dr. Rose be appointed the General Treasurer of the Conference.

In view of the heavy liabilities incurred during the last quadrennium for the payment of the travelling expenses of Committees, and of Representatives to other Conferences and religious bodies, your Committee strongly urges on the Conference the desirability of due regard to economy in making such appointments for the future, by limiting, as far as practicable, the numbers constituting such Committees and Representatives.

Your Committee would state that since presenting the first part of this report, they have received from the Newfoundland Conference a further sum of \$189.20 towards Conference expenses; but as additional accounts have come in against the Conference, the deficit is about the same as previously stated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. DUNCAN, Chairman. WM. G. STRONG, Secretary. Т

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METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### APPENDIX C.

#### FRATERNAL AND OTHER ADDRESSES.

#### ADDRESS TO THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

To His Excellency, The Right Honorable SIR JOHN GEORGE EDWARD HENRY DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL, Marquis of Lorne, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Conncil, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the Same, &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency, the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada desires to approach your Excellency with the expression of our profound esteem for your Excellency's personal character and virtues, for your various talents and attainments, and not least, for the published results of them in respect to the most devotional book of the Holy Scriptures; for your parliamentary experience and acknowledged abilities; and for your near relationship to our most gracious Queen, enthroned in all hearts throughout the British Empire, and even throughout the civilised world.

We have special pleasure also in availing ourselves of this occasion to offer the homage of our affectionate esteem to the known accomplishments and Christian, womanly virtues of Her Royal Highness, your consort, no less distinguished as the beloved daughter of our beloved Queen, than by those acts and qualities which, after the example of her royal parents, have adorned the throne and blessed the British nation.

Representing, as we do, six Annual Conferences of more than one thousand ministers, and more than three thousand

congregations, and half a million of adherents throughout the Dominion, we express the warm and unanimous feelings of our people, when we anticipate great benefit and pleasure to the inhabitants at large from the presence of Her Royal Highness and your Excellency amongst us, and offer our fervent prayers for your happiness and the complete success of your administration of the government of Canada.

Signed by order, and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

> GEORGE DOUGLAS, President. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

MONTREAL, Sept. 21st, 1878.

#### ADDRESS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

DEAR BRETHREN,—We greet you heartily "in the name of the Lord." We received the address of your last General Conterence with great pleasure, not only because it conveyed to us the loving salutations of your Church; but also because it was brought to us by your venerable representative, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and his excellent colleague, the Rev. D. Savage. To some of our aged brethren Dr. Ryerson had been known when, in the vigour of life, he visited this Conference many years ago. To them especially, and to all the brethren, it was a singular pleasure to see and hear him, in the ripeness of a hale old age. We were comforted and encouraged by his wise and weighty words, and we glorify the grace of God in him. We shall also remember Brother Savage with affection and respect.

We are thankful to know that the modifications of your Church polity, inaugurated four years ago, have worked with so much satisfaction to you. The cordiality with which the various bodies, then united in the Methodist Church of Canada, have coalesced; the marked spiritual blessing which has rested upon the ministrations of the united Church; and the gracious liberality with which, in despite of prevailing commercial depression, your domestic missions have been

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### METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

maintained, and your mission to Japan has been strengthened; all these are proofs that the blessing of the God of Israel rests upon your Church organization. It would not be surprising if arrangements so large and so complex should need some modification, as years pass, and experience lengthens, and we do not doubt that you will be guided in such cases, to decisions adequate to the necessity of the case, whilst consistent with those fundamental principles on which Methodist Church polity must rest.

We are thankful also to hear of your fixed determination to maintain in purity the body of doctrines derived from the New Testament and handed down to us by our fathers. In this age of intellectual unrest, fidelity to the ancient truth is not fashionable, and they who will stand by the ancient but ever young Gospel must be prepared to meet the criticism of the rash and the sneer of the scornful. None the less does the cardinal truth stand strong; and the world has not yet found any cure for its deepest-seated diseases which will bear comparison with the touch of the Great Physician. From many quarters the Christian faith is now eagerly assailed : and whilst we assure you of our determination to maintain the substance of the Christian verities, we rejoice that you have given proof of a similar and equally strong resolution.

The period which has elapsed since last we addressed you has been marked by great spiritual prosperity. Showers of blessing have fallen upon our congregations : and upwards of 25,000 members have been added to our Church. This has been largely owing to the judicious and careful employment of special religious agencies. Revival Missions, which included not only preaching but a vast amount of systematic visitation of the careless and ungodly inhabitants of our towns and villages, have been greatly blessed, and the blessing has extended far beyond the immediate limits of those special efforts; and has been manifest in a more direct and earnest purpose in preaching and a more prayerful and godly activity on the part of our local preachers, leaders, and Sunday-school teachers. The quickened and more vigorous spiritual life of our societies has produced its natural result

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in increased efforts for the erection and enlargement of chapels and school-buildings. Within the last four years we have expended upon these purposes upwards of  $\pounds$  a larger sum than has been thus devoted in any similar period in the history of British Methodism. At the same time our Foreign Missionary work has been prosecuted with signal proofs of the Divine favour. In Italy and in Spain the Head of the Church is raising up gifted preachers of the Gospel, from amongst the natives of those countries : and in India, the terrible calamity of the famine has given occasion for a display of compassionate and generous liberality on the part of Englishmen towards their fellow-subjects in the East, which has done not a little to dull the edge of their prejudices against Christianity, and to open a broad way for the proclamation of the Gospel. Indeed, in all parts of the world, the fields are white unto the harvest; and whilst we gird up our loins for the great work that lies before us, we are encouraged by the thought that you are prepared to cooperate with us for the conversion of the world to Christ.

An important change in our ecclesiastical arrangements has also been made since we received your last communi-This year, for the first time, representative laymen cation. take part with the ministers in the transaction of the finan-This change, cial and general business of the Conference. though a development rather than an innovation, has nevertheless been the subject of much anxious and earnest deliberation. But the discussions have been conducted throughout in the most christian temper, and the decision and change have been reached without the loss of a minister or a mem-We believe that the arrangements made, whilst duly ber. guarding all pastoral rights and responsibilities, will bring our beloved and trusted laity into a closer union with us, and will enable them to exercise a larger influence for good upon the future development of our Church.

But we are convinced that amidst all changes of administration or polity, our great want is still that mighty blessing for which the primitive Church waited, in accordance with the command of her risen Lord, and which, when it came upon them, clothed the apostles with power and ensured the early

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and rapid triumph of the Gospel. And our earnest and devout prayer is that you and we may be baptized anew with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

We have appointed as our Representative to your Conference the Rev. Samuel Coley, the Theological Tutor at our Headingley College; a beloved and trusted brother, who will give you fuller information as to the work of God under our charge and will convey to you our affectionate salutations.

Signed on behalf and by order of the Conference.

JAMES H. RIGG, D.D., President. MARMADUKE C. OSBORN, Secretary.

BRADFORD, August 1878.

## ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

VENERABLE FATHERS AND DEAR BRETHREN,-

Your affectionate and suggestive address has afforded us pleasure and profit; and while we are grateful for your encouraging statements and practical counsels, we thank you most heartily for sending to us as your representative the Reverend Samuel Coley, whose social intercourse, public addresses, and ministrations have edified and delighted us and great numbers of our people; have inspired us with feelings of thankfulness and admiration at the grace of God and various knowledge in his words of experience and Our earnest prayer is, that he may be safely counsel. returned to you, and long spared as a father in your Israel, an able expounder of Scripture truth and doctrine in their divine origin and application to the deepest experience and sanctification of the human heart, and as a pure example and wise instructor of your rising ministry.

We rejoice to learn that the period which has elapsed since you last addressed us "has been marked by great spiritual prosperity;" that "showers of blessing have fallen upon your congregations, and upwards of 25,000

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members have been added to your Church." We are thankful to be able to say, that during the same period of four years, we have been also favoured with perfect peace and much spiritual prosperity throughout the vast field of Besides the erection of several hundred comour labours. modious places of worship, and large additional means for the support of our educational institutions, and the increase of students and pupils attending them, also a large increase in our Connexional Funds and Sunday-schools, there has been an increase in our ministry during this quadrennium of one hundred and thirty-four, and in our Church-membership of twenty thousand four hundred and ninety-nine. We have increased our missions from two hundred and thirty-one to four, hundred and nine, and missionaries from two hundred and fifty-nine in 1874, to four hundred and twenty-two in 1878. But for the details and state of our work, we refer you to your most honoured Representative, whom we have requested to act as our Representative to your Conference.

Adhering with conscientious strictness and unswerving firmness to the vital doctrines of Christianity and of Methodism, we have not only reiterated our belief in our twenty-five articles of religion, but have declared our interpretation of them to be the first fifty two sermons of Mr. Wesley and his notes on the New Testament.

We have found the lay element in our Conference useful and important; and during our present most brotherly and spiritual session, we have sought to make our Discipline as perfect as possible for the support and promotion of all our institutions, and for strengthening and securing the unity of our connexion throughout the Dominion of Canada.

We now return to the several departments of our work with increased confidence in the adaptation and effectiveness of our institutions and agencies for the purposes of their establishment, with renewed determination to spend and be spent in the service of our divine Lord, and with the union of our prayers with yours for the renewal and perpetuation of Pentecostal anointing and power throughout the entire Church of our common Methodism for the fulfilment of its

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### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

mission to extend the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, and the spread of Scriptural holiness over the world.

Signed by order, and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

> GEORGE DOUGLAS, President. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23rd, 1878.

### ADDRESS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, UNITED STATES.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—Your very kind letter, brought to us by the hands of your Representatives, the Rev. J. A. Williams and Mr. John Macdonald, M.P., was received and read with great interest, and the addresses of these honoured brethren were heard with much pleasure. Their timely and eloquent words were like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." We have felt a deep and increasing solicitude for your success in the new and most interesting negotiations in reference to a union of the different Methodist bodies of Canada.

You have shown an example worthy of imitation by other Methodists throughout the world. In your recent union you have prepared the way for grander and more effective movements for the evangelization of Canada. We have admired your fraternal counsels, and congratulate you upon your great success. We are sure that you have been directed by the good Providence that has so signally blessed and guided all branches of Methodism.

Your zeal and liberality in the cause of missions impresses us, and leads us to hope that our people may emulate your noble example. While we do not make apologies for the small amount of mission money raised, in proportion to cur numbers and strength, you will not fail to see how greatly

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our resources have been taxed to keep up and extend our work in the sparsely-settled regions of the West and in the South, so recently opened to us. You will observe that the aggregate sum our people gave for churches, parsonages, and schools during the four years preceding our last General Conference was over Sixteen millions of dollars. While this does not excuse us for giving so little to missions, it, nevertheless, shows that our people are liberal and only need more thorough training in this special work. This, by the grace of God, we mean to give, and as soon as possible raise the amount of our collections to one dollar per member, which will give us a million and a half to use in supporting and extending our missions.

Many of our people have been subjected to great financial trials during the years immediately preceding our late General Conference, and the severe pressure was felt by all of our benevolent societies. We are not unmindful of the varied and important interests committed to us.

We have felt a constantly increasing anxiety for the freedmen of the South, and have endeavoured to meet our responsibilities in the new relations in which we have been placed toward them. To educate, christianize, and save them has seemed to us of paramount interest.

To do this we have freely given our means, and sent among them many teachers and missionaries, and God has given considerable success in this most interesting field, of which our representative will further inform you. Our missions in other parts of this continent, and in India, China, Japan, Bulgaria Germany, Italy, and Scandinavia, have been prosecuted with earnestness and success. We hold to the heroic maxim of John Wesley, who, in the inspiration of a sanctified ambition, said, "The world is my parish." Every branch of Methodism and every Methodist preacher adopts this sentiment, and hears the voice of Jesus saying, "The field is the world;" and the spirit of the words impels us forward against all forms of sin -a mighty aggressive force which, in its unity and zeal, must be felt all over the world. We assure you of our steadfast devotion to the principles our fathers inculcated.

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Our doctrines remain intact as we received them. Our usages are Methodistic, and though we sometimes complain of lukewarmness and neglect, yet, on the whole, our people grow in grace and a knowledge of the truth. Our Sundayschools are a great source of increase for the Church, and are especially effective in leading to more earnest and systematic study of the word of God.

Our representative will convey to you further our sincere regards, and inform you more particularly concerning our work. We shall always be glad to hear of your prosperity, and to receive your messengers as brethren beloved. The visits of the various representatives of sister Churches to our General Conference relieved the monotony of the routine of business, and threw around our session the light and love of a divine unity, a nearer and dearer fellowship which will ripen in heaven, where we hope to meet you all in the general assembly and Church of the first-born, bought and saved by the blood of Jesus. Let us, in the love hallowed by our trials and strengthened by our faith, go on in our blessed work of saving souls, looking always unto Jesus, to whom be glory forever.

> WILLIAM L. HARRIS, President. GEORGE W. WOODRUFF, Secretary.

NEW YORK, June 17th, 1878.

### ADDRESS TO THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES.

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,— We gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by the meeting of our General Conference, to acknowledge the fraternal message which we received by the hand of your honoured delegate, the Rev. Dr. Upham; and to present our cordial greetings to the large division of the great Methodist army which you represent. "Grace be unto yon and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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We give thanks to God always for you all; making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

It has afforded us the highest gratification to hear of your success in the different fields of Christian work to which the Master has called you. Your missionary operations in all the great divisions of the globe, are noble evidences of Christian zeal and liberality, which have already been crowned with results that triumphantly attest the approval of the Captain of our salvation. The wide extent of your country, and the vast numbers from Europe and Asia which are seeking a home within your borders, impose weighty obligations upon your Church, to make suitable provision for the religious instruction of these incoming multitudes. We cannot, therefore, but admire the lofty faith and farreaching sympathy which have prompted you, in spite of these pressing claims of your home mission work, to raise the standard of Immanuel in so many distant regions, where heathen darkness still enshrouds myriads who know not the name of the world's Redeemer.

The numerous educational institutions, which your Church has established for the literary and religious education of the young, and the ample provision of an instructive and wholesome literature, in the form of books and periodicals, evince a wise foresight and a just comprehension of the demands of the age in which we live. It is important in these times of doubt and questioning, that our people should know Whom they have believed; and be able to give a reason for the hope which they cherish.

We are thankful to be able to say that during the last four years our Church has enjoyed a good degree of prosperity. The union consummated at our last General Conference has been attended by the happiest results. After supplying the losses from all causes, we report an increase of about 20,000 in our membership, with a proportionate addition to the ranks of our ministry. But the commercial depression, of which you speak in your address, has been also felt in Canada; and has made it more difficult for us to meet the

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outlay, which the prosecution of our various Church enterprises renders necessary. Yet, considering the times, we are bound to say, that the liberality of our people has been creditable to their piety, and sympathy with all departments of our work.

Our missions in Japan, commenced at the same time as those of your own Church, have been favoured by encouraging tokens of the Divine blessing. The labours of our missionaries among the Indian tribes of this country have yielded rich fruits, which amply vindicate the divine adaptation of the Gospel of Christ to all classes of sinners.

Among the French Roman Catholics of the Province of Quebec, we continue to labour in hope : looking for the day of their emancipation from the superstitions which now enslave them. In the Province of Manitoba and the Northwestern territory of our Dominion, which is rapidly filling up with an industrious and intelligent population, our mission work has been prosecuted with vigour and success : we have already gathered some of the first-fruits ; but we hope at no distant day to reap from this field a rich and abundant harvest.

In our educational work, as well as in our efforts to supply our people with a sound religious literature, we have faithfully, though with unequal steps, followed your example. In 1829, the year after our Canadian Methodism,—with the consent of your General Conference and bishops,—was constituted an independent Conference, our Church paper, the *Christian Guardian*, was launched; which has steadily grown in influence from that time till now. During the same period, our Book Room has been a constant and potent agency in the religious education of our people.

The visit of the Rev. Dr. Upham to our General Conference,—his effective public ministrations, the information he gave respecting your work, and his genial Christian intercourse in more private relations,—greatly endeared him to us all, and materially strengthened the links of cordial affection which bind us to the great Church which he represented. It is a source of profound satisfaction to us, not only that the separation of our Canadian Conference from your Church,

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in 1828, was effected with the most perfect good feeling on both sides, but that from that time till the present, the most cordial fraternal intercourse has been maintained, between your Church and ours, without the slightest jar or interruption. Your success has ever given us most sincere joy. The names of the heroic men who came over from the United States, and laid the foundation of our Church in the Canadian wilderness, are still warmly cherished and revered in our homes. Our fervent prayer is,—whatever disputes may arise between our political representatives about questions of national interest,-that the two chief Methodist C<sup>4</sup> urches, of our respective countries, may ever be in the future as in the past, one in sound Scriptural doctrine, in the experience of personal salvation, and in sincere brotherly affection.

We have appointed as our representative to your next General Conference the Rev. Edward B. Ryckman, M.A., a brother who possesses the confidence and affection of our Church, and who will be able to fully inform you respecting our affairs.

Praying that God may supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, we remain your brethren in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

Signed by order, and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

> GEORGE DOUGLAS, President. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23rd, 1878.

### ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHKEN,—"Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

United to you as we are by blood, by language, by commercial interests, by connection with the British Empire,

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and by belonging to the Methodist family, we greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus, and pray that the "Lord God of your fathers may make you a thousand times so many as ye are, and bless you as he hath promised you."

We are not unacquainted with your history as a Church. The names of many of your ministers have long been familiar to us, and we rejoice over the blessing which God has made the Methodist Church in the Dominion of Canada.

In these ends of the earth "the Great Head of the Church" has crowned our labours with success. In the Australasian Colonies, Tasmania, and New Zealand, we supply the ordinances of religion to a larger number of people than are supplied by the ministry of any other section of the Protestant Church.

Our missions in the Friendly Islands, Fiji, the Navigator's Islands, and Rotuma, are among the most successful missions of the modern Christian Church. Just now the interest of our Church is being deeply excited by a new mission which has been established in New Britain and the adjacent islands.

This is our first General Conference under our new constitution. It is composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay Representatives. Our deliberations have been characterised by harmony, and we trust that the measures determined upon will result in making our Church more effective in bringing glory to God and good to men.

We have been favoured at this Conference with the presence of the Rev. Gervase Smith, D.D., the representative of the British General Conference. His pulpit labours, his wise counsels, and his effective platform addresses have been sources of pleasure and profit to us. His visit to these lands has strengthened the bonds of attachment between us and the British Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

We have instructed our Secretary to forward to you the Minutes of our Conference and the Report of our Missionary Society. May we ask for similar publications from your Conference? Perhaps both Conferences might learn some-

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thing from studying each other's legislative enactments and modes of operation.

We pray that all your Churches may become in their unity, their activity, their spirituality, their prayerfulness, and aggressiveness, "Churches of the Holy Ghost."

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Signed by order and on behalf of this Conference.

JABEZ B. WATERHOUSE, Secretary.

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, May 21st, 1878.

### ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ "our Saviour."

For many years we have known your "work of faith and labour of love" and have rejoiced exceedingly that our God hath made you so great a blessing. While we have watched with intense interest and patriotic pride your remarkable national growth and prosperity, the names of your martyr missionaries have become among us household words, and the wondrous things which God hath wrought by you in the islands of the sea have filled our lips with praise.

It is therefore with the most heartfelt pleasure that we listen to your words of greeting and receive from you the hand of fellowship in the love of Christ and in the common work of Mothodism.

### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

In this our second General Conference, we have assembled from all parts of this northern land, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and from the distant Empire of Japan, and with profound gratitude to the Head of the Church have we reviewed the work wherein God hath blessed us.

The labours of four years have added to our membership 20,659 souls, so that we now number 122,605 Church members, and about 500,000 adherents, under the ministrations of 1,165 ministers and preachers.

Like your own, the foundations of our Church have ever been laid in missionary labour, and the spirit of missionary zeal hath been poured out abundantly upon the hearts of our people. Their contributions for this cause now amount to nearly \$150,000 a year; 422 messengers of the gospel are maintained in this work; our Missionary Districts in the great North-west and in British Columbia are rapidly expanding into new Conferences; and in Japan, already from the highest and most cultivated ranks of the empire, God is converting, calling, and sending for the native missionaries to carry the Gospel to their fellow-countrymen.

In building for the future, we have been deeply impressed with the importance of Christian Education. Nearly fifty years ago, the attention of our Church was directed to the importance of a seminary of higher learning for our youth and our ministry. We now maintain two Universities and three Schools of Theology in affiliation with these, besides many excellent Collegiate Schools for the youth of both sexes.

In the legislation of this present Conference the experience of four years has enabled us to perfect more fully many parts of our church organization. Some questions of far reaching influence on our future have been anxiously and prayerfully considered and we hope that in our conclusions the spirit of true progress has been combined with a tender conservatism of those things which are essentially characteristic of Methodism.

We have enjoyed exceedingly the fraternal visits to our body of the Messengers of the Churches. From the Mother-15

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land and Church, we have welcomed the Rev. Samuel Coley, eminent alike for purity, learning, and wisdom. From the sister Churches in the United States we have been privileged to receive the Revs. Dr. Upham and Dr. Kelly and the venerable and to us highly beloved Dr. Sargent. With these brethren we have taken counsel on a subject of intense interest to us as to you, the assembling at an early date of a Conference of Universal Methodism.

In such a gathering we hope for a more perfect interchange of thought with you and for such a grand impulse of Christian zeal and such unity and harmony of effort as will make our common Methodism, North and South, East and West, more than ever a means of spreading Scriptural Holiness throughout all lands.

"Brethren, pray for us." And "the God of all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Signed by order, and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

> GEORGE DOUGLAS, President. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

Montreal, Sept. 23rd, 1878.

### ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

With the close of another quadrennial period we greet you again in the bonds of Christian brotherhood. We take great pleasure in acknowledging your Christian courtesy in sending to our late General Conference an address so cordial

### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

and a deputation of brethren so distinguished and so eminently fitted to represent your great and growing Church. With equal pleasure we bear testimony to the able and felicitous manner in which they performed their duties as fraternal messengers of the Church. Be assured, dear brethren, that nothing was wanting to render the occasion most pleasing, profitable, and memorable.

We cordially reciprocate the wish and prayer, expressed in your address,—that we may be more and more closely united in the bonds of Christian fraternity,—convinced as we are that fraternization while not resulting in ecclesiastical union, must at least precede it. While the two fraternizing Churches are fully satisfied with their respective polities, we must leave the solution of the problem of organic union to the future developments of the Divine Providence which is favouring both Churches with such wonderful "showers of blessing." In harmony with these views, we are looking with prayerful interest to the contemplated Œcumenical Council of Methodism, the possibility of which is a gratifying evidence of the growing spirit of fraternization among the Churches.

We rejoice in your great success in carrying on the work of Methodism, and especially your eminent success in the great work of missions, in which your example is an inspiration to us and to all Christendom. We are sure that we all bid you godspeed in this work so dear to Christ and all Christians.

With thanksgiving and humility, we rejoice to be able to say that the quadrennium just closed has been one of prosperity unprecedented in our history as a Church in the conversion of souls, the building of Churches, and in the enlargement of all our resources. To God be all the glory 1

Our fraternal delegates, the Rev. J. R. Jaques, D.D., Ph. D., and the Rev. William Brown, brethren beloved among us, will explain more fully our prosperity and prospects and bear to you our cordial Christian salutations.

And now, dear brethren, where shall we look for more bountiful fields than those which invite our united labours and which are already white for the harvest ! In the broad

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fields of our fair Dominion of Canada, sheltered by the majesty of the British Empire, we, as Methodists, in the words of England's great captain, may fittingly "thank God for this great opportunity to do our duty" and to contribute our part toward making our country in the future as it has been in the past, the land of the Sabbath and the land of the Bible.

In the unity of our common Methodist doctrines of free, full, and present salvation, and in the unity of our common experience of Christian love, we, with you, go forth to our common work of saving souls from death, praying that the God of peace may make you and us "perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Signed by order and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, Belleville, Ontario, this seventh day of September, A.D. 1878.

A. CARMAN, President.F. B. STRATTON, Secretary.

### ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, IN CANADA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—"Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

We have received with profound pleasure your fraternal address, replete as it is with sentiments which we cordially reciprocate. We have listened with delighted attention to the utterances of the honoured brethren whom you commissioned to visit us, and we trust that this interchange of kind and brotherly attentions will continue until all divergencies of opinion shall pass away, and we shall, with one heart and mind, labour together in the vineyard of the Lord.

#### 1878.] METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

We rejoice in your prosperity. The intellectual culture and development both of the ministers and members of the Church, the diffusion of the "truth as it is in Jesus," the conviction and conversion of sinners, and the edification and sanctification of believers, are works in which we have a common interest, and in which we are mutually engaged. We pray that upon you, as well as ourselves, the rich and refreshing influences of Divine grace may continue to rest, and that in the great harvest field of Christian endeavour you may gather many sheaves for the Master.

At the close of this, the first quadrennial period in the history of our united Church, we too find abundant reason to "thank God and take courage." Our educational institutions are doing a great and noble work. The numbers of our ministers, members, and adherents are rapidly increasing. God has honoured our missionaries in the North-west Territory, and in Japan, with the most significant tokens of His approval and blessing; and in the latter country not only have native Churches been formed, but native probationers for our ministry have been received and acknowledged.

Though our external organization as a Church differs slightly from yours, there is much that we have in common. We are subjects of the same noble Queen, sharers of the constitutional rights and privileges which all good citizens in our free and glorious country enjoy; heirs of a heritage secured to us by the sturdy independence, unceasing industry, indomitable courage, and high-principled piety of our forefathers. Before us lies a future as full of reward as the present is of promise. As fellow Christians and members of the great family of Methodism, we have a moral heritage and work committed to us which angels might covet. Nor should it be forgotten that our doctrines are the same wherever Methodism exists. No differences of organization, no re-adjustments of modern thought, have led to a single modification of our creed. The articles of faith taught in our homes, our Sabbath-schools, and our Theological Halls, are such as we can proclaim without reservation before the world. May it be our glory to believe and preach them fully and freely.

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"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever."

Signed by order, and on behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

### George Douglas, President. A. Sutherland, Secretary.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23rd, 1878.

Through some unaccountable circumstance the Address from the Methodist Episcopal Church South, has not been received.

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