

The Provincial Wesleyan

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Whole No 1045

Religious Miscellany.

The chief want of Sunday-schools

We take the following from an address delivered at the recent annual meeting of the Wesleyan Sunday-school Union of the Oldham Circuit, by Mr. B. Barrow. After referring to the chief want of "something" in order to the increased usefulness of Sabbath-schools, the speaker continued: "Eminent and intelligent teachers are not wanted in our Sunday-schools. It is not in sufficient numbers, that every school may have a proper share of attention and the entire ground occupied by thoroughly skilled and trained. The chief want of our Sunday-schools is teachers of the right stamp. We want bright, this is their chief want, and upon the front of our schools might be posted, without causing an unjust reflection on their character, the following announcement: 'Wanted immediately, earnest and intelligent Christian men and women as teachers.' Because this speaks to the teacher's heart failure; our aim is not to discourage, but to give. Who among us have done all that we might have done? Let us rise to a high platform, so that, having a clearer apprehension of the nature and importance of the work, we shall buckle on afresh the armor, and with our industry and our gifts, and our quietness like men and be strong. Nothing can by any means compensate for the lack of this in our schools, nor until the teaching power and influence are raised to their proper height shall we see those results it should form our ambition to witness. What is it which gives the entire tone and complexion in our schools, but the teaching? What is the remedy for all the evils which we have to combat in our schools? Our antiseptic remedy, earnest and intelligent teachers. Bad attendance, disorder, inattention, discouragement would form no features in our schools with teachers such as have been named; they would show such a charm and power over the whole class as would draw and attract by the force of beauty and loveliness, and would constrain the scholars from full and loving hearts to my own."

It will take the work of years to remove. A large proportion of our senior scholars, to say the least, are very precious, early too forward, not in those virtues which grace and adorn the character, but in those lower and grosser qualities by which the lowest intellects are developed. We have heard the question repeatedly proposed. How is that so few of our senior scholars are retained in our schools? Brothers, while we have slept, the world has been sowing tares. Satan and the enemy have been more earnest than the Church, they have got a long way ahead of us, and unless some efficient breakwater be raised to stem the downward torrent, the consequences will be most disastrous. After urging his fellow-laborers to increased diligence the speaker concluded by quoting from an appropriate rule of action: 1. Love your work. 2. Be always in your place. 3. Be always in time. 4. Win the love of your scholars. 5. Keep order in your class. 6. Prepare the lesson. 7. Study the art of teaching. 8. Study daily of style. 9. Fill up every moment. 10. Visit your scholars. 11. Pray for and with each scholar. 12. Aim at a daily conversion. 13. Be thoroughly in earnest. 14. Be blameless and harmless. 15. Be filled with the spirit, and let your motto be—'At my precious scholars for Jesus.'—Methodist Recorder.

Christ a Sympathizing Friend.

The sympathy of man is cheering and comforting; but "thus far shalt thou go, and no further." It is finite, limited—often selfish. There are nameless and numberless sorrows on earth, beyond the reach of all human alleviation. The sympathy of Jesus is alone exalted, pure, infinite—removed from all taint of selfishness. He has himself passed through every experience of man. There are no depths of sorrow or anguish into which I can be plunged, but his everlasting arms are never still. "He was in all points tempted." Blessed assurance! I never can know the sorrow into which the "Man of Sorrows" cannot enter. Ah, rather in the midst of earth's most harassing trials, let me listen to the unanswerable challenge from the lips of a suffering Saviour, "Was there ever any sorrow like unto my sorrow?" Yet he refused not to drink the cup of wrath, he shrunk not back from the appointed cross! "He set his face steadfastly to go; he refused not to be hung upon the bitter tree; and even when the vinegar that would have assuaged the rage of thirst, and mitigated physical suffering, are we tempted at times to murmur and to grudge, still he said, "Consider him that endureth this." Let us be weary and faint in your minds. Shall we hesitate to bear any trial our Lord and Master sees meet to lay upon us, when we think of the infinitely weightier cross he so meekly and unrepiningly carried for us? I commend you to God and to the word of his grace. I commend you above all to the tenderness of that human sympathy which exists alone in Jesus. Angels and archangels, never having had sorrow, cannot sympathize. The glorious Being before whom they cast their crowns can, for sorrow tracked his footsteps from the manger to the grave.

Voices of the Dead.

Although death may put an end to man's efforts on earth, it does not put an end to his influence. I remember two special instances of this. One was the case of an old Bid, as she was always called a valued servant of a large farmer who I knew living in the north of Cornwall. She was a Methodist of the humble class—the Bible Christians, then called Bryanites. She had after her conversion, to endure long years of sorrow, calamity, cruel misrepresentation and persecution, first from her husband, secondly from her master. She lived to witness the conversion of the one and to be sent for to soothe the dying days of the other, Dear old Bid! I remember her high forehead, gray eyes, expressive mouth, and wrinkled, yet so comely face. She was tall and of commanding presence, but of most affectionate nature. Her life had indeed become a psalm of gratitude to her Saviour. She lived in a remote and dark village on the cliff, and spent the evening of her days in continued peace and light. Her former enemies had become her fervent supporters. As she was dying she sent for six young men of the neighborhood who had been alluded from a profession of religion. She exhorted them faithfully, and prayed for them. After they had left, their circumstances dwelt on her mind. She said: "I can do one thing more for them. I will speak to them from my coffin." They came and bore the coffin. The saint lies upwards of two miles from the remains were borne along the containing her ashes the procession swelled at wide grassy lanes the procession swelled at every second. Rich and poor joined in respect for the dead. Hymns were sung on the way; the bearers were the objects of concern, and the subjects of prayer all along. Regrets for the dead were mingled with anxieties for the living; and thus did dear old Bid, in her own practical, working, loving way, preach as she promised, "from her coffin."

at home, and so he went. One very dark and wet night he lost his way, got into a creek and barely escaped drowning. He was several hours late. The widow had ceased to expect him. After committing him to her heavenly Father's care, she went to rest. She was soon disturbed by the entrance; and when he came in, he said, "Mother, why did you not put the light in the window? Years passed away; the light grew, and was sent to sea. On returning from his first voyage, which was a long one, he hurried home. Walking across the moor, he met a neighbor, who told him that his mother was dead. The neighbor told him that he was with her when dying, and that as her bed approached she requested him to listen, and then slowly and with difficulty said to him, "Tell dear Johnny, when he comes down here, to tell her that I am here, and that I will put a light in the window of heaven for him." By it way, the widow and influence, and prayer of his poor mother were blessed by God the Holy Spirit to lead the lad to the Saviour. He became a sincere and courageous Christian.

John Wesley's Death Day.

Few are aware how lately this mighty apostle of Christ left the earth. Only a fortnight ago, the 21st of March, he said, "The best of all is, God is with us," and gave up the ghost. His influence is but just begun. The Christian Guardian has some striking reflections on this event. "Seventy-eight years ago to-day," he writes, "wheels of life so droll, and John Wesley went to heaven. A prince had fallen in Israel, and although he was of such a good old age, and had so fully discharged every duty resting on him, yet his spiritual children, scores of thousands, missed him very sorely. The world has kept mourning ever since, and yet is awake in some things, only level with the rest of the world in his day. On the total abstinence question, could any minister bring stronger reasoning than his, in describing the property accumulated by means of selling alcoholic beverages. He points to the beautiful residence erected in this way, and exclaims, 'is it wrong to strain?' There is blood in that wine! In the walls! blood in the floor! blood in the ceiling! the blood of souls! On the slavery question, too, he said as strong things as could be said; he regarded it as the sum of all villainies. His fore-gift enabled him to see that the societies would do it, and that there might be danger there and yet he was enabled to contend, by encouraging a missionary spirit; and the Missionary Society has done much good by providing such a noble way of using the money of the Church for missionary purposes. Dr. Coke thought the income of the Wesleyan Missionary Society would reach £4,000 per annum. Richard Reece thought the magnificent sum of £10,000 per annum would be realized. A few years ago it was stated on missionary platforms, peculiar emphasis being laid on the figures, that £75,000 had been received as a missionary income. In our day it amounts to £150,000 per annum.

General Miscellany.

Secular Colleges in the States.
The resignation of the Chancellorship of Michigan University, by its late President, is the severest blow the cause of secular university education has received. He was an undoubtedly popular man. He had obtained mastery of the station. He had navigated the institution through the perils of Homogeneity and the regular progress, obtaining a large increase to the contrary of the age. He had increased the salaries and number of its professors, and greatly enlarged the number of the students. His courteous and conciliatory spirit had won all the rival Christian bodies represented in its faculty to his approval, so that fierce opposition that welcomed him, had been changed to warm commendation. He had shown great vigor in enforcing and enlarging the educational department. No president in our land had so honored and enviable a position. He had not his fame to make, like White of Cornell, and McOwen of Princeton, nor had he used his available ability, like Hill of Harvard. He was probably the most popular President in America. More than a thousand students every Sabbath hung on his speech. No such audience is found elsewhere in this country; hardly one abroad. And yet he surrenders all this success, and assumes the charge of a college that is practically unborn for though it has had a legal and formal existence for years, it has never been manned, except in a very few departments, and has only graduated a very few students. What has led to this step? A reason deeper than any that appears to the public eye. It is a declaration, by one of the most experienced and successful college presidents, of the weakness and ultimate dissolution of State and secular education. It is a declaration, that however admirably they are managed and managed, however abundantly they are supplied with funds, even with a State as their almoner, they are without real strength. They cannot endure. It is a confession, also, that only ecclesiastical colleges, or at the least, positively Christian, evangelical colleges, can constantly and progressively flourish. The Church must and will manage these high institutions. It is not without wisdom that the Roman Catholic declares in favor of religious schools from the start. Her history in New York schools from the start. Her history in New York may yet revise the whole common school system, and compel the introduction of Archbishop Whately's plan, a united Christian course of daily instruction. But whatever may be the decision on the primary school, the colleges will continue to be denominational, and the State and secular institutions to be compelled to succumb. This will develop every Christian college in Michigan. The Methodists could do but little while one of their ministers was at the head of their magnificent State institution. They will now rally, and build up their own college on the right foundation having the wisdom first, we trust, to change its location to Detroit, thus putting it in the real centre of the State, and removing it from competition with the North-western University. Baptists, Free Will Baptist, and Presbyterians will be equally enthusiastic in their enterprises.

The cause of the inevitable decay of State colleges is found in the determination of anti-vangelical bodies to be represented in their faculty, and to practically control them. It is the little rift within the lute, that by and by will make the music mute. And ere widening slowly silence all. It is this silencing the chief of them all. A few years ago the little college of Boston evangelists fastened their eye on Ann Arbor. They said, "Go to. Is not there a college here no sect is allowed special prominence, whether or not even Christian faith is required of a professor or student? We have desecrated the oldest of American colleges. Let us enter and ruin this Eden." And so they took up a minister of theirs from a small Massachusetts city, and put him down there, without parish or people, as in the case practically to this day. But he avails the mind of the student. He gives away false and dangerous books,—eight hundred last year alone. He organizes Bible classes where the Bible is emptied of all its authority and divinity, by the exclusive and saving Word of God. He gets up popular lectures on religious topics, in a small country town, and to a crowd of students, are especially attractive; in which lectures Christian teachers and devotees are put in the same category with Buddhist errors and unchristian doctrines, nay, beneath them. Channing and Parker, Emerson and Clarke, having the preeminence over Wesley and Edwards, Calvin and Arminius. Thus undermined, the faculty is invaded, and men without religion, men opposed to Christianity, are elected to its chairs. They are popular and able, and public sentiment, often the child of the devil, is made to echo the cry of this school: "No distinction on account of faith. One religion is as good as another. It is a State college. All have a right to its honors." That this is the manner, it seen in the nomination for the vacancy just made, T. W. Higginson and Dr. Hedge are prominent candidates; one of them is the bitterest of enemies of the cross of Christ, and the other not in the least friendly. No eminent Baptist, Presbyterian or Episcopalian has much chance for the chair. Though the orthodox bodies outnumber this little clique of a thousand to one, in that State, yet it is pushing its men forward as especially fit for the post. Though neither of the above candidates has any superior fitness to many in the evangelical ranks, yet because of their step-citizens are state upon a State that, as a very commonwealth, express their creed unanimously from its mouth. And they may win their prize. We shall not deeply regret their success. The orthodox professors will then follow the orthodox president, and the orthodox parents will withdraw their sons, and the institution will be unblest by the Christian's patronage and prayers.

Such is the inevitable result, sooner or later, of all State and secular colleges. President Chadbourne has abandoned Wisconsin State University, which should itself cease to exist, and its funds be devoted to the denominational colleges of the State. Cornell, however it flourishes, will perish with the rest. "They like, will be with the rest of all such institutions. The Christian patrons of Harvard, among whom, strange as it may appear, are found some Methodists, and even Methodist preachers (far better to send them to Roman Catholic colleges) will open their eyes to its fate, and these, which are the only three secular colleges in the land that are in a flourishing condition, will be left behind by those that are truly teaching as the source and end of all learning, the Gospel, the Divinity and the Redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Zion's Herald.

How Small Expenditures Count.

Five cents each morning; hardly worth a sound thought; just what it costs you a paper of pits or a spoon of coffee. Seventy cents per week; 't would buy coffee or sugar for a whole family, \$18.20 a year. And this amount invested in a savings bank at the end of each month, and the interest thereon at six per cent, computed annually, would in twelve years amount to more than \$670. Enough to buy a good farm in the West. Five cents before breakfast, dinner, and supper; you'd hardly miss it, yet 'tis fifteen cents a day; \$1.05 per week. Enough to buy wife or daughter a dress, \$25.00 a year. Enough to buy a small library of books. Laves this as before, and in twenty years you would have over \$200. Quite enough, to buy a good house and lot. Ten cents each morning; hardly worth a sound thought; just what it costs you a paper of pits or a spoon of coffee. Seventy cents per week; 't would buy coffee or sugar for a whole family, \$18.20 a year. And this amount invested in a savings bank at the end of each month, and the interest thereon at six per cent, computed annually, would in twelve years amount to more than \$670. Enough to buy a good farm in the West. Five cents before breakfast, dinner, and supper; you'd hardly miss it, yet 'tis fifteen cents a day; \$1.05 per week. Enough to buy wife or daughter a dress, \$25.00 a year. Enough to buy a small library of books. Laves this as before, and in twenty years you would have over \$200. Quite enough, to buy a good house and lot.

Stramships will go through propelled by their own power, and will be obliged to have regular pilots. The passage through will occupy fifteen to twenty hours. The company will have suitable towage for sailing vessels to pass through the whole canal. The pilotage, towage, and harbor dues have not been estimated, but will be upon the most liberal basis.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Tribune reports that the arrangements for the opening of the canal on November 17th are fully developed. The Viceroy of Egypt proposes to entertain his guests with unprecedented magnificence. On the bank of the canal are being erected lodges, constructed, fitted, and decorated so as to be representative of the characteristics of the several countries to which the guests belong. Public amusements, theatres, circuses, balls, and fêtes are to be provided for the recreation of assemblage, which promises to be as brilliant as varied in its character. It was expected that the Emperor of the French would be able to attend in person, but as it is reported that neither himself nor his Empress will, for State reasons, be able to attend, it is probable that Prince Napoleon will be his proxy. The present presump of the Italian Crown will represent King Victor Emmanuel; the King of Prussia will send a member of the royal family; and the Prince of Wales, probably accompanied by Prince Arthur, will represent Great Britain. The King of Greece will also attend. The French Emperor is having manufactured at Lyons a coat woven of silk and worsted, which will cost \$90,000, to be erected for the Emperor or his representatives. This tent will be taken to Paris at the ceremonies and sold at public auction, the proceeds to be distributed among the poor.

It is stated that a summer has been chartered to leave the city about the first of September for Port Said, touching at Marseilles, Leghorn, and other Mediterranean ports, so as to allow visitors to be present at the opening ceremonies.

For PARLIAMENT.

Rev. F. J. JOHNSON, D.D. 120
" J. FARAR, 87
" T. VASEY, 42
" J. H. JAMES, D.D., 22
" L. H. WILSON, M.A., 16
For SECRETARY.
Rev. J. FARAR, 208
" J. H. JAMES, D.D., 39
" L. H. WILSON, M.A., 14
GENERAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.
MONTHLY SESSION.
At nine o'clock, with great punctuality, the committee assembled in Great Toronto-street Chapel, a structure unadorned and inwardly imposing and elegant appearance. Those in attendance, ministers as well as laymen, were numerous; and the arrangements made for the discharge of official duties were generally of a highly satisfactory character. The Rev. President, (the Rev. S. Romil) Hall, occupied the chair; and gave out the hymn commencing.
Author of faith we seek thy face,
For all who feel their work begun,
Confirm and strengthen them in grace,
And bring thy freest children on."
which having been sung.
The Rev. John Farrar read a portion of the 6th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, at the conclusion of which
Mr. D. G. W. Oliver, of Sherborne, and the Rev. Dr. Scott offered prayer.
The Rev. John Farrar according to custom, proceeded to read over the names of the members of the Committee, and also those of gentlemen invited to attend; those who were present answering to their names as they were called.
The President addressing those assembled, said: "I feel it a very pleasant thing to say that we give a very hearty welcome not simply to the members of the Committee, but to the friends who visit us on the present occasion. This is the commencement of our preparatory work. Most of our friends present, all probably, are aware that in the Conference itself we conduct our affairs under the form of conversations. It is a very rare thing to enter upon what would be regarded in another place as a formal, serious discussion. We are not very fond of the word 'discussion.' Our deliberations take the form of friendly conversations. We shall conduct the business of these two or three days, I take for granted somewhat in the same manner; and I have no doubt in the same spirit in which we conduct our conversations elsewhere. As this is the first of our Preparatory Committees, I should like to express my earnest hope that while we are thoroughly engaged and free in our conversations, we may carry them out; the spirit in which John Wesley originally intended we should be in the presence and in the fear of God, with great respect for one another's views and feelings; with a perfect liberty given to others to express even opposing views, especially so long as the expressions of opposing views are uttered in a becoming and a Christian temper. Then as the result we shall verify, probably come to a decision of mind. The Apostle seems, I think, to look in this direction when he speaks of those who are 'otherwise minded' on certain matters. But if they are thus minded on the behalf of the great principles of Christian integrity and holiness, the reasonable probability is that where they are otherwise or variously minded God will give them to see eye to eye, and to be of one mind and one heart. I presume that we shall adopt the usual course. This is a Committee of Review. We are not accustomed as to this Committee to present a formal report. But I take it for granted that the Secretary is prepared to give what may be called an abstract of the reports of the Committee. Thirdly, inasmuch as the business which has been conducted during the past year. If Mr. Oliver is prepared to do that, we will proceed at once to the business of the morning.
The Rev. G. W. Oliver, B. A., read the abstract, of which the following is a summary:—
The number of Day-schools is 608, an increase of 16; scholars 119,070 an increase of 8,990; average attendance 77,800, an increase of 4,970. The amount of Government annual grants to Wesleyan schools in 1868 was, £32,611 19 6.1. being an increase on the amount reported last year of £2,476 7s. 1d. Twenty entirely new schools were erected during the year 1868, one was transferred to new buildings, and eight were commenced in existing buildings. Twenty-eight out-fit grants were made by the General Committee, amounting to £1,125. The number of certificated teachers employed in Wesleyan schools on the 31st of December last was 691; of assistant teachers 42; and of pupil teachers 899, an increase of 164 on the previous year.
The usual examination of pupil teachers in religious knowledge was held in March last. The mode of conducting these examinations has been considered and proposed changes will be submitted to the meeting. Contending the year's training at the Normal Institution all passed the examination at Christmas last. Of these 64 were sent to schools, making a total of 971 who have gone from Westminister. The sessions of 1869 commenced with 132 students, 62 of the second year and 80 of the first.
Repeated complaints of the intolerant spirit manifested by clergymen of the Established Church against the children of our people have led the General Education Committee to present a petition to the House of Commons, praying that such measures may be adopted as shall secure the enforcement of an adequate Conscience clause in all schools receiving Parliamentary aid in the form of building or annual grants.
The Committee has carefully considered the practical effect of day schools upon Methodist interests, and has resolved to recommend the restoration of Conscience Inspectors.
SABBATH SCHOOLS.
Schools, 6,328 increase 83
Teachers and Officers, 103,441 " 7,726
Ditto in Society or on trial, 77,060 " 248
Scholars 601,801 " 19,761
Ditto in Society or on trial, 363,372 decr. 572
Ditto in school classes, 18,881 increase 1,205
Young persons in Bible classes by ministers or others, 13,015 decrease 2,727
Rev. J. Vine presented the Treasurer's Report, as follows:—Dr.: To collections and subscriptions, 1868, £2,816 1s. 6d.; dividends from legacies funded, £28 2s. 6d.; rents from property, 1868, £164 18s. 3d.; balance due to treasurer, £4,835 16s. 6d.; total, £10,974 14s. 8d. Cr.: By balance from 1867, £4,835 16s. 10d.; carried to "Reserve Fund" last year, as

per account with the executors of the late Rev. John Scott, £569 11s. 11d.; deficiency on College account, for 1868, £2,176 17s. 7d.; deficiency on printing schools account, for 1868, £261 11s. 3d.; grants in aid of outfit of schools, £1,125; secretary, quarters, rents, rates, &c. (in part), £270 11s. 11d.; visitor of Sunday-schools, quarters, &c. and other expenses, £392 4s. 11d.; printing, postage, stationery, &c., £239 15s.; repairs of property, £171 12s. 6d.; books, parliamentary papers, advertisements, and general expenses, £389 16s. 3d.; new buildings, £548 15s. 5d.; interest on loans £322 1s. 7d.; total, £10,974 14s. 8d.

The President said that he had not before them the materials on which any observations could be made by the members of the Committee.—They would have in a few minutes brought before them three resolutions, the first relating to the Impugnations of their day schools and to the formation of Circuit Sunday-school Unions; a second relating to the new Westminister Chapel; and the third resolution to the Conscience Clause, as they called it. Those who had been in attendance at the Committee would have seen that friends unaware of what was before them in the order of business had very naturally run into all matters of interest which were on their minds, without knowing what was to be formally spoken to at an after part of the meeting. It would be convenient, therefore to those gentlemen who would be called upon to move and second resolutions to know what would subsequently be before the attention of the meeting. He thought it had been customary to nominate persons to take charge of resolutions, to move, second, and support. He always thought that objection, inasmuch as it seemed to restrict the attention of the Committee to business on the part of two or three. With just one exception, some would be called to move and second; but he would leave it open to the meeting to support or otherwise the resolutions brought forward. They had the three subjects which would formally be brought under consideration; but it was very probable that in the reading of the reports many matters of interest to some of them might be upon their minds and hearts, and if that were so, they would take a little time for open conversation on the general questions which had been noted in the reports, and he would then go more formally to the business before them.

Mr. WILLIAM M'ARTHUR, M. P., inquired whether it would not be desirable to increase the power of the Committee, or rather to widen the range of subjects that might come under its consideration during the year. The Committee had the Sunday and day-schools under their notice during the past twelve months. But there were very important questions looming in the distance that would seem to draw the meeting year by year, and he should like to know whether the Committee or the Committee of Privileges had to deal with such subjects. He did not think it was desirable, but that a great question such as that to which Mr. Puseok had referred should go through Parliament without having been considered by some Conscience Committee.

The PRESIDENT said that inasmuch as the Education Committee was appointed for a very specific and well-defined object, Mr. M'Arthur had no reason to refer to it outside the range of the business. Again, as they had a Committee of Privileges, in vested with any business affecting their general interests, of the kind noted by Mr. M'Arthur, he thought all such questions should come under the consideration of that Committee. Thirdly, inasmuch as the functions of the Parliamentary Committee, as it was called, were not very clearly defined in the Minutes of Conference it would be better, before the next Conference to consider whether something should be determined respecting the functions of that Committee of Privileges, and then Mr. M'Arthur's suggestion would be a very valuable one.

Mr. HAYWORTH, of Manchester, inquired whether Mr. Cusick had any practical suggestions to make in order that the sets of might be rendered more useful. Those who had to do with schools generally found that the success of a school mainly depended upon the teachers of the four or five classes as it is called; and he had thought that their ministers would do well if they co-operated with the conductors and teachers in trying to have placed in their schools persons specially adapted for the work.

The REV. J. CHILDS said his personal visitation year by year was very much the same one year with another as to the details of his visits and the kind of work done. He would, however observe that the spirit in which he was received everywhere was the most gratifying kind. He had never met with an instance of coldness or indifference on the part of the officers and teachers of their Sunday-schools. During the year he had visited 900 different circuits, in some 20 or 30 districts. He had appointments from various parts of the Connexion which very much regulated his movements.—He had been applied to to visit certain districts, such as Kensington and Great Queen Street, for the purpose of meeting the teachers of a particular school, as at Hixton, for the purpose of giving any information that might be desired. On other occasions he had visited circuits, where he had been requested to go to meet all the officers and teachers of the circuit, because the schools were in a low condition, and required some steps to be taken, as in the case of Easingwold in Yorkshire, and other places. He had also visited this year, for the first time, the Scottish Methodist Sunday School, and he had hoped to be able to present a memorandum on the points of resemblance between their Sunday schools in Scotland and those in England and Wales, but he had had so much to do in the way of compression, that he had not been able to complete that memorandum.

The Rev. Dr. OSBORN moved the first resolution as follows:—
"That this meeting rejoice in the continued success of the day and Sabbath schools, as evidenced in the statistics now presented; and in thankful to God that steps are being taken for the more thorough and efficient working of these institutions by the formation of Circuit Sunday

Religious Intelligence.

Wesleyan Conference.

PREPARATORY COMMITTEES, ETC., ETC.
By the Mail from England we have received the Watchman and the Methodist Recorder giving full reports of the meetings of the preparatory Committees and the opening Session of the Conference Proper, at Hall. We shall devote all the space we can spare in this and the next number of our paper to extracts from these reports.—
HULL, July 29.—The one hundred and twenty-sixth annual Session of the Conference was this morning formally opened at Great Thornton-street Chapel, Hull. About six hundred Ministers were present. The Conference was opened by the singing of a hymn given out by the SECRETARY, and the reading of the Scriptures by the PRESIDENT, and prayer. After these devotional exercises the first business of the day was that ex- proceeded with—viz., the filing up of those vacancies in the legal Conference through death or superannuation, which have occurred during the year. When a member of the legal hundred has been a Supernumerary four years, he is deemed to be superannuated, and his place becomes vacant. It was found that in Great Britain two vacancies had occurred by death and three by superannuation. In Ireland one vacancy had occurred. These vacancies were then filled up as follows:—The first being by nomination, the second selection, and the remainder strictly—
Henry W. Williams, by nomination, in the place of T. Dunn, superannuated.
E. J. H. Toyn, by seniority, in the place of John Geddis, superannuated.
Thomas Livingstone, by nomination, in the place of F. A. Ward, deceased.
John Parks, by seniority, in place of W. Watson (B), deceased.
Thomas N. Springs, by nomination, in place of Samuel Young, superannuated.
I. W. McKay, in place of Henry Price, deceased.
The Conference then proceeded to the election of its President and Secretary. The following is the result of the election:—

A Great Work Completed—Opening of the Suez Canal.

The distinguished French engineer, M. de Lesseps, has officially announced that the Suez Canal, undertaken and carried through under his supervision, will be opened for the purposes of commerce November 17th next. The great work was commenced in 1859, and it was done in 1869. The entire cost is about \$80,000,000 gold. The stock is owned in all the countries of Europe. M. de Lesseps's letter (translation) says:—
Length of canal, 102 kilometers, 98 1/2 miles whole distance; 8 meters, 26 feet, depth of water; width on the line of water, 100 meters, 325 feet, with the exception of three passages where this will be found to be 60 meters, 195 feet. Tolls for ships going through the canal have been fixed by the act of Concession, article 17 of the act determining these tolls. The following is the section from the Concession made by Sid Fasha, Viceroy of Egypt, to the company, granting the right of way, etc. The conclusion of one of these sections is to the effect:—
1. Toll on all ships same scale of charges with, but any exception or special privilege.
2. Tarif of charges and tolls shall be published three months before the canal is fully opened, in capitals and principal commercial ports of the countries interested in the navigation of this canal.
3. That the special tolls, for navigating the canal shall not exceed the maximum figure of ten francs (\$1.87 per ton, cargo carried on ships, and per head for passengers. An International Commission is now engaged at the present time in determining an official scale for ships of all flags. In the meantime, until this is established the tolls of ten francs (\$1.87) per ton capacity will be laid upon the entire cargo as shown by the ship's papers.

