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# MINUTES

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Primitive Methodist Church,

CANADA,

HELD AT TORONTO CITY ON THE TWENTIETH OF  
APRIL AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

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Copied from the Conference Journal by E. BARRASS, Secretary,  
and published by order of the Conference.

TORONTO:

MACLEAR, THOMAS & COMPANY, PRINTERS, 16, KING STREET.

1855.

NOTE.—The following Minutes having been prepared amidst a great press of other business, some errors may inadvertantly have crept in, for which, the compiler craves the indulgence of his brethren.—E. B.

\* Toronto May 7, 1855.

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## MINUTES, &C.

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According to the appointment of the last Conference, held at Brampton, Chinguacousy, the various representatives of the Primitive Methodist Church, C. W., assembled in Toronto on Friday, April 20, 1855, and after devotional exercises, proceeded to the transaction of business.

THOMAS ADAMS, *President.*  
EDWARD BARRASS, *Secretary.*

*Question.*—1. *Who compose the present Conference?*

*Answer.*—John Davison, *English Representative.*

Edward Barrass, *General Committee Delegate.*

William Lawson, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Robert Walker, *Connexional Treasurer.*

Also, Delegates appointed by their respective District Meetings :—TORONTO—John Lacy, Thos. Crompton, James Edgar, John Garner, Joseph Kent, Richard Goulding, Thomas Cooke, William Daniels, Charles Atkinson, John Sherwood, Charles D. Maginn, and William Harrison.

HAMILTON.—Thomas Adams, William Rowe, William J. Dean, William Stephenson, Matthew S. Gray, William Wilkins, William Marshall, John Masters, Joseph Lawson, Alfred Thurlow, Robert Parsons, and John Kellum.

*Q.*—2. *What Preachers are taken into the Annual List?*

*A.*—John Nattrass, James Clarke, Richard Paul, William Newton, Thomas Dudley, William Stephenson.

*Q.*—3. *What Preachers remain on trial?*

*A.*—Robert Cade, James G. Montgomery, Robert Stephenson, Samuel Driffield, James Holdershaw, Joseph Markham, and Jonathan Milner; also, Richard Poulter, and Isaac Ryder.

*Q.*—4. *What Preachers are now received on trial?*

A.—William Cooke, *Mis. Comm.*; Richard Paintin, *Walpole*.

Q.—5. *What Preachers have withdrawn from the Church?*

A.—David Gostelow, and Thomas Lawson.

Q.—6. *What Preachers have ceased to travel?*

A.—Thomas Fox.

Q.—7. *What Preachers have died this year?*

A.—1. *Matthew Nichols*. This afflictive dispensation transpired at Kingston, Aug. 17, 1854. Bro. Nichols was stationed for the above place by the Conference of 1854, with the most flattering expectations of extensive usefulness. He entered upon his work with prayerfulness of spirit, fixedness of purpose, and a settled trust in the God of Israel. He had just attained the zenith of his might, and never before was so well prepared to wield the "sword of the Spirit," and take the prey from the mighty. He had attained a spirituality of mind,—a nearness to God,—a deeper insight into the human heart,—a clearer perception of the simplicity of faith, and efficacy of the atonement, which in a very peculiar manner prepared him for the ennobling work of saving souls. But, alas! while the whole hemisphere of his future was bright, the fatal shaft descended and smote him,—

"A veteran slumbering on his arms,  
Beneath his red-cross shield."

He was attacked by Asiatic cholera, Aug. 15, and died two days afterwards. He had travelled nearly 12 years in Canada, with marked success in every station. He left a wife and three children. His family and the Church have sustained an irreparable loss, while he has secured incalculable and eternal gain.

"Though to-night the seed be sown in gloom,  
And darkness, and tears, and sorrow,  
It shall spring from the tomb, in immortal bloom,  
On the bright and glorious morrow.  
The tears that we shed o'er holy dust,  
Are the tribute of human sadness;  
But the grave holds in trust the remains of the just,  
Till the day of eternal gladness."

2. *James Robert Stephenson.* He was born at Beverley, England, March 26th, 1830. From infancy he evinced a most amiable disposition; and, chiefly through the instrumentality of pious parents, was brought to a saving knowledge of the Truth in the fifteenth year of his age. He entered our Ministry in 1852, and travelled with acceptability in the Redruth Ct. near two years. In April, 1854, he joined our ranks in this Province, and seemed to promise a source of great usefulness. He was stationed by the Conference of that year in Walpole circuit; in which station, however, he only labored three months, when all his earthly engagements were brought to a premature and affecting termination.

While bathing in Lake Erie, on the morning of August 4th, he accidentally fell over the edge of a hidden rock, and was drowned,—

“Many fall as sudden,—few as safe.”

He died in the 25th year of his age, and the third of his ministry. “Being dead, he yet speaketh.”

*Q.—How are the Ministers stationed for the ensuing year?*

*A.—*

#### I.—TORONTO DISTRICT.

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Edward Barrass.      | 1. <i>Toronto.</i>          |
| Robert Cade.         | 2. <i>Yorkville Branch.</i> |
| John Garner.         | 3. <i>Etobicoke.</i>        |
| William Jolley, Sup. | William Gledhill.           |
| John Lacey.          | 4. <i>Markham.</i>          |
| James Clarke.        | Thomas Foster.              |
| James Edgar.         | 5. <i>Darlington.</i>       |
| John Nattrass.       | 6. <i>Albion.</i>           |
|                      | James Holdershaw.           |
| Richard Poulter.     | 7. <i>Scarboro'.</i>        |
|                      | One to be obtained.         |
| William Lyle.        | 8. <i>Reach Mission.</i>    |
|                      | William Cooke.              |

9. *Kingston Mis.*  
 Thomas Crompton. Joseph Markham.  
 10. *Portland Mis.*  
 Joseph Simpson, Jonathan Milner.  
 11. *Napanee Mis.*  
 One to be obtained.  
 12. *Montreal Mis.*  
 One to be obtained.

## II.—HAMILTON DISTRICT.

13. *Brampton.*  
 Robert Boyle. Robert Stephenson, 1st 6 months.  
 14. *Hamilton.*  
 William Rowe.  
 15. *Walpole and Grand River.*  
 William J. Dean. Richard Paintin, 1st 6 months.  
 One to be obtained. James G. Montgomery, last do.  
 16. *Blenheim.*  
 William Newton. One to be obtained.  
 17. *Galt and Guelph Mis.*  
 John Davison. Richard Paul.  
 18. *Orangeville Mis.*  
 Thomas Dudley.  
 19. *Peel and Wellesley Mis.*  
 Samuel Driffield. Jas. G. Montgomery, 1st 6 months.  
 John Towler, Sup. Richard Paintin, last 6 months.  
 One to be obtained.  
 20. *Woodstock Mis.*  
 Robert Parsons.  
 21. *London Mis.*  
 William Stephenson. Robert Stephenson, last 6 mo.  
 22. *Paris and Brantford Mis.*  
 Thomas Adams.  
 23. *Brant Mis.*  
 William Lomas.  
 24. *Bosanquet Mis.*  
 Isaac Ryder.  
 25. *St. Vincent Mis.*  
 One to be obtained.

TABULAR VIEW OF THE CONNEXION, 1855.

STATIONS.	Members.		Deaths.	Increase.	Decrease.	Removals, &c.	Ministers.	Local Preachers.	Leaders.	Chapels.	Rooms, &c.	Sabbath Schools.	Sabbath Scholars.	S. S. Teachers.	Relief Fund.	Conference Fund.
	Approved.	Total.														
ONTARIO .....	96	96	1	...	73	29	1	10	5	1	1	1	140	95	£ 18 0	£ s. d.
Orkville .....	49	49	...	49	...	...	1	4	4	2	...	1	145	22	0 8 0	0 18 0
Tobaccoke .....	235	290	6	5	...	...	3	13	15	13	3	5	155	38	2 8 4	0 8 2
Arkham .....	364	435	2	18	3	73	3	22	19	11	12	4	168	33	3 12 6	2 8 4
Warrington .....	182	178	3	...	5	20	2	13	8	4	9	2	140	15	1 3 0	3 12 6
Ilbion .....	148	188	3	1	...	18	2	9	8	6	8	1	140	6	1 3 0	1 3 0
Carbro' .....	142	137	2	13	...	18	1	9	8	4	8	1	35	6	1 11 4	1 11 4
Each .....	226	142	2	30	...	20	2	4	6	3	3	2	67	12	1 6 2	1 6 2
Kingston .....	60	155	2	13	...	15	1	0	7	1	14	4	112	25	1 3 8	1 3 8
Orland .....	40	230	2	30	...	20	2	5	8	1	10	1	52	10	2 15 0	2 15 0
Rampton .....	162	100	3	...	18	...	3	1	2	...	7	2	...	...	0 0 0	0 0 0
Amblon .....	59	194	10	...	10	15	2	8	7	5	6	...	147	12	1 12 10	2 12 10
Alpole .....	156	59	3	14	...	14	1	1	3	1	...	1	61	10	0 9 10	0 9 10
Lehain .....	133	140	1	4	...	10	2	8	10	2	15	...	...	...	1 11 10	1 11 10
Alt and Guelph .....	83	85	1	...	...	42	1	12	15	5	4	2	71	16	1 3 4	1 3 4
Sel & Wellesley .....	118	25	2	23	...	6	2	5	5	3	3	...	76	12	0 4 2	0 4 2
Goodstock .....	56	143	1	...	...	1	3	5	9	2	12	1	31	7	1 3 10	1 3 10
London .....	24	45	...	12	...	1	1	4	7	1	1	...	...	...	0 7 6	0 7 6
Waverille .....	97	25	...	25	...	3	2	3	1	...	13	...	...	...	0 4 2	0 4 2
Paris and Brantford .....	31	41	...	16	...	5	1	4	5	1	5	...	...	...	0 16 10	0 16 10
Total Number in 1855 .....	2538	364	34	341	110	337	34	151	154	66	132	29	1398	243	23 17 0	23 17 0
Total Number in 1854 .....	2345	2671	30	110	...	492	35	151	122	59	132	35	1641	284	19 19 4	19 19 4
Increase .....	193	38	4	...	...	...	...	...	32	7	...	6	...	...	4 9 6	4 9 6
Decrease .....	...	...	...	...	...	155	1	...	...	...	...	...	243	41	...	...

¶ Q.—9. *What is the state of the Connexion numerically.*

A.—The number of deaths, is .....	34	Increase	4.
“ “ Travelling Preachers	34	Decrease	I.
“ “ Local Preachers.....	151		
“ “ Class Leaders .....	154	Increase	32-
“ “ Connexional Chapels	66	“	7.
“ “ Rooms, &c. ....	132	“	7.
“ “ Sabbath Schools.....	29	Decrease	6.
“ “ “ Scholars.....	1398	“	243.
“ “ Gratuitous Teachers..	243	“	41.
“ “ Members in connec- tion with the Canadian Conference...	2912	Increase	231

#### I. COMMITTEES.

¶ Q.—10. *Who compose the Committees?*

A.— (1.) GENERAL OR CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEES.

President and Secretary of Conference, English Representatives, J. Lacey, T. Crompton, R. Boyle, I. Garner, W. Rowe, W. J. Dean, W. Stephenson, S. Driffield, R. Poulter, I. Ryder, W., T., and J. Lawson, R. Walker, J. Ward, I. Wilson, R. C. Smith, W. Masters, J. T. Wilson, W. Anstead. Meetings to be held at Hamilton on the second Thursday in July: at Toronto, second Thursday in October, 1855, and second Thursday in January, 1856; and at Hamilton the day preceding the Conference of 1856. Each Meeting to commence at 1 o'clock, A. M. W. Lawson, shall be Secretary for this Committee, and for the G. M. Committee; and R. Walker shall be the Treasurer.

(2.) THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE shall be composed of the Members of the Connexional Committee. Its Meetings shall be held at the same time and place as the General Committee. Missionaries are hereby reminded that they must send their Quarterly Reports to Mr. W. Lawson, Hamilton; *one week*, at least, before the time of holding Quarterly Missionary Committee Meetings. Three members of these Committees being present at the time of meeting, are competent to act.

(3.) EXECUTIVE.—The Executive of the two above named

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Committees shall be composed of the following persons:—  
E. Barrass, W. Rowe, R. Walker, T. Lawson, J. Lawson,  
and W. Lawson. Meetings to be held alternately at  
Toronto and Hamilton, on the first Wednesday in each  
month, to commence at 1 o'clock, A. M. One Member from  
Toronto District must attend all the meetings held at  
Hamilton, and the Secretary must attend those held at  
Toronto.

N.B.—The last named person shall be Secretary, and  
the last named in each of the following Committees shall  
be Secretary thereof, unless otherwise specified.

## II. DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

1. TORONTO.—J. Lacey, R. Walker, W. Daniels, T. Law-  
son, and E. Barrass.

2. HAMILTON.—W. Marshall, J. Elliott, R. C. Smith,  
L. Walker, and R. Boyle.

## III. PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

J. Davison, E. Barrass, R. Boyle, R. Walker, W. Law-  
son, and J. Edgar.

## IV. PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

A Preparatory Committee, consisting of the President  
and Secretary of Conference, the English Representative,  
and the General Committee Delegates to the next District  
Meetings, with W. Rowe, and W. Lawson, Missionary  
Secretary; who shall meet in Hamilton on Wednesday,  
April 9, 1856, to arrange the business of Conference.

(4.) CHILDREN'S FUND COMMITTEE shall be composed of  
the members of the Executive Committee; Mr. R. Walker  
shall be the Treasurer, and Mr. W. Lawson the Secretary.

Q.—11. *Where and when shall the next Conference be held?*

A.—In the City of Hamilton, on Friday, April 11, 1856.

The following persons shall attend the next Conference:—  
Thomas Adams, President, as the General Committee  
Delegate; Thomas Crompton, as the English Representa-  
tive; W. Lawson, as the General Missionary Secretary,  
and R. Walker, as the General Treasurer.

Q.—12. *Where and when shall the next District Meetings be held? and by which of the General Committee Delegates shall each be attended? Ans.*

Districts.	Where to be held.	Date.	Gen. Com. Del.
Toronto.....	Twaddel's Chapel Scarboro' }	Thur'sday April 3	T. Crompton.
Hamilton .....	Dumbro, Blenheim }	Wed'day April 2.	Pres. of Conference.

Q.—13. *What are the further regulations of Conference?*

A.—(1.) That the mode of receiving Preachers into full connection with Conference, shall be the following:—A Public, Religious Service shall be held during the sittings of each Conference. The said service shall be conducted thus: after devotional exercises, the candidates shall relate their experience and call to the Ministry, an address shall then be delivered to them by a senior Minister appointed by the preceding Conference and conclude with special prayer. A copy of the Scriptures shall be presented in Conference, on the day following, to each of the Candidates, with their names, and those of the President and Secretary of Conference, inserted therein.

(2.) That the following course of study shall be adopted by Conference, to be pursued by our Probationary Preachers.

1st. Year; English Grammar, Arithmetic, Wesley's Sermons, Dr. Clark's Letter to a Preacher; Dr. Clark's Theology, James' Earnest Ministry, Mason's Self Knowledge, and Todd's Students' Manual.

2nd. Year; Book-keeping, Watt's Logic, Baxter's Reformed Pastor, and Cooke's Theology.

3rd. Year; A Manual of Geography, Dr. G. Campbell's Lectures on Ecclesiastical History, D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation, and Rollin's Ancient History.

4th. Year; Macaulay's History of England, Horne's Introduction to the Study of the Holy Scriptures, Fletcher's Checks; and above all, a prayerful study of the Scriptures daily.

(3.) That the foregoing course of study shall be required of Probationary Preachers, as far as practicable.

(4.) That each Probationer shall report to his District Meeting each year, what books of the above course he has read, and at the termination of his probation he must attend Conference, and submit to an examination by a select Committee, appointed for that purpose.

(5.) That £20 per quarter, be paid to married ministers in country stations.

(6.) That £21 15s. per quarter, be paid to married ministers stationed in Towns.

(7.) That £23 10s. per quarter, be paid to married ministers in City stations.

(8.) That £11 per quarter, be paid to single ministers who are received into full connexion.

(9.) That £9 per quarter, be paid to single ministers while on Probation.

(10.) That £16 15s. per quarter, be paid to married hired local preachers, and £18 per quarter, to married preachers while on probation.

(11.) That all ministers who keep horses, which are not provided for by the stations, either in whole, or in part, shall be allowed £2 per quarter, for the same.

(12.) That a Fund for paying the allowances for Ministers' children shall be formed.

(13.) That the allowance for each child, from the said Fund, shall be £2 per quarter, which shall be paid quarterly.

(14.) That the following regulations for establishing this fund shall be adopted, payments being at the rate of 10 per cent. on the income of each station; according to which, the stations will have to pay the following sums yearly:—*Toronto*, £16; *Etobicoke*, £10 8s.; *Markham*, £14; *Darlington*, £7 4s.; *Albion*, £8; *Scarboro*, £7 12s.; *Brampton*, £9 4s.; *Hamilton*, £8 16; *Blenheim*, £6 8s.; *Walpole*, £7 4s.; *Reach*, £6 8s.; *Galt*, £14; *Orangeville*, £11 4s.; *Kingston*, £24 16s.; *Peel and Wellesley*, £8; *Woodstock*, £8; *London*, £9 12s.; *Brantford*, £7 12s.; *Portland*, £3 12s.

(15.) That the stations shall be at liberty to raise the

foregoing amounts in any way that they may think proper to adopt.

(16.) That Circuits shall pay *one-half* of their amounts to the fund, the *first* quarter, and the remaining *one-half*, the *third* quarter of the year.

(17.) That in consequence of the necessarily increased salaries in future to be paid to our ministers, the Conference affectionately desires the leaders to bring the subject before their classes, and impress upon their members the duty of supporting the ministry, as God hath prospered them

(18.) That 4d. per member—approved and on trial—be paid by the stations to the Relief and Conference Funds.

(19.) That all stations pay their own Delegates' expences to the District Meetings, Kingston and Portland excepted.

(20.) That Missionary collecting cards be printed for circulation among our Sabbath School children, to collect money on behalf of the Juvenile mission.

(21.) That the station where the Conference is held shall make all necessary arrangements for holding the same at the expense of the station, and shall so arrange the public services during Conference, as to reserve an evening for the Conference Missionary Meeting, and another for the Ordination Service, and a third for a Temperance Meeting; all the collections taken up at these services shall belong to the station, except the Missionary collection, which shall be given to the General Mission Fund.

(22.) That we record our thanks to the Parent Society in England for having sent us Bros. Crompton and Rowe, whom we hail with pleasure as a valuable accession to our Ministerial ranks.

(23.) That we make another appeal to the Parent Society for an additional supply of 16 Missionaries; one-half married, and the other half single; and that we also desire the sum of £2,000 sterling to be sent with them, with a view to extend our work in Canada.

(24.) That a Connexional Camp Meeting be held at Cook's Mills, Vaughan, June 15th, and that the following

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Ministers be expected to attend : President and Secretary of the Conference, W. Lyle, J. Garner, W. Gledhill, R. Boyle, J. Edgar, R. Poulter, W. Rowe, J. Natrass, J. Holdershaw, and W. Lawson, with the Ministers on Markham Circuit.

(25.) That the Ministers and office bearers in Markham circuit shall be a Committee, to make all needful arrangements for the said Camp Meeting.

(26.) That the Ministers and friends generally be requested to support the above Camp Meeting as much as lie in their power; and all who can attend are particularly desired to write to Thomas Cooke, Esq., Rupert's P. O., early in June, stating the number of tents they will require.

(27.) That the Code of Discipline prepared by Mr. W. Lawson, be referred to a Committee for examination, and report thereon to the next Conference.

(28.) That the following persons compose the said Committee : President and Secretary of the Conference, J. Davison, T. Crompton, J. Lacey, R. Boyle, W. Rowe, R. Walker, T. Lawson, and G. Raper.

(29.) That the MS. shall be forwarded to the Members of the Committee in rotation, that they may have time to deliberate thereon, and hold a Meeting to compare their notes prior to next Conference.

(30.) That the said Committee shall also make arrangements relative to an Act of Incorporation in the Provincial Parliament.

(31.) That the above Committee shall also examine a MS. submitted to Conference, and report thereon to the next Conference, for the formation of a Canadian Travelling Preachers' Friendly Society.

(32.) That J. Flesher, T. Bateman, and J. Friskin shall be our Representatives in the English Conference.

(33.) That Mr. R. Walker shall be re-elected General Book Steward.

(34.) That Bro. E. Barrass be re-appointed to the office of Book Steward for Toronto District.

(35.) That Bro. W. Rowe, be Book Steward for Hamilton District.

(36.) That District Book Stewards shall be paid  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for their services during their term of office.

(37.) That the thanks of the Conference be presented to Bro. J. Davison, for the excellent Address which he delivered to the young Ministers ending their probation, and that he allow it to be printed.

(38.) That the thanks of the Conference be presented to all its Officers, for their very efficient services during the past year.

(39.) That the Conference tenders its thanks to the Executive of the General and General Missionary Committees, for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duties during the past year.

(40.) That the Conference records its thanks to the Giver of all Good, for a net increase of 231 Members during this Connexional year.

(41.) That the gift of Land in the City of Hamilton, from Jasper Gilkison, Esq., to the Conference, be gratefully accepted, and a Letter of thanks be sent to that gentleman.

(42.) That the thanks of the Conference be presented to Bro. R. Boyle, for his praiseworthy efforts in securing the said land.

(43.) That the thanks of the Conference be tendered to Bro. M. S. Gray, for the gift of an acre of Land in Brant Mission, for Connexional purposes.

(44.) That the thanks of the Conference be presented to Bro. J. Davison, for the kind manner in which he has discharged his duties as the Representative of the English Conference.

(45.) That a vote of thanks be given to the President and Secretary of the Conference, for the manner in which they have discharged their respective duties during the Sessions of Conference.

(46.) That the friends of Toronto be desired to receive the grateful acknowledgments of Conference, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the Delegates this year.

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Q.—14. *What is the state of the RELIEF FUND, ending April 25, 1855?*

A.—

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Balance in hand last year..	£34 14 4	Allowance to Bro. R. Boyle	
Cash from Toronto Dis.....	15 6 2	on account of illness.....	£41 14 0
“ “ Hamilton Dis....	8 2 8	Balance on hand.....	16 9 2
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£58 3 2		£58 3 2

Q.—15. *What is the state of the CONFERENCE FUND, ending April 25, 1855?*

A.—

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Balance last year.....	£7 4 11	Expenses of Delegates to	
From Toronto Dis.....	15 6 2	and from Conference... £20 17' 0	
“ Hamilton Dis.....	8 2 8	Expenses of Candidates	
Sale of Minutes.....	2 10 0	for Ordination.....	4 8 9
Balance due to the Treas-		Bibles for young ministers	2 8 1½
urer.....	1 18 11½	Printing Stations.....	0 12 6
	<hr/>	Circ. by order of Con., '54.	0 16 4
	£35 2 8½	Printing Minutes of Con-	
		ference for '54.....	6 0 0
			<hr/>
			£35 2 8½

Q.—16. *What amount of Missionary Money has been raised during the past year, ending April 25, 1855?*

A.—

Balance in hand, May 1, 1854 .....	£281 7 0½
Sale of Connexional Books .....	190 7 5½
From various sources .....	195 19 7½
Amount received from the Stations.....	694 6 10½
Cash from the Parent Society.....	61 2 2
	<hr/>
Amount of Expenditure.....	£1,423 3 2
	<hr/>
Balance on hand, April 25, 1855.....	£291 7 8

N.B.—For particulars see the Missionary Report.

Q.—17. *What are the Conference Addresses this year?*

A.—1. PASTORAL ADDRESS, prepared by the President.

# PASTORAL ADDRESS,

PREPARED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE.

*To the Members of the Primitive Methodist Churches in Canada West:*

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD,—We, your Ministers and Representatives assembled in Conference for the transaction of business that concerns the welfare of our Church in this Province, beg to inform you in this our Annual Pastoral Address, that our love to you knows no abatement, and our interest in all that concerns the happiness of you and yours no decline. We assure you, with all the warmth of Christian and brotherly affection, that during our various sittings we have studied your best interests, and have carefully, and prayerfully, as those “that must give account to God,” made those appointments, and adopted those plans and regulations that we, in our collective wisdom, deem best fitted to promote your present and eternal well-being, and the prosperity of our community.

No doubt it will afford you much pleasure to be made acquainted with the following particulars :

1st.—Our Session has been one of great peace and harmony,—

“All were of one heart and soul,  
And only love inspired the whole.”

2nd.—The Ministers of other Churches in Toronto showed us no little kindness, by inviting our Ministers to supply their pulpits on the Conference Sabbath. Hence, some of our brethren occupied the pulpits in Chapels belonging to the Wesleyan, Methodist New Connexion, and Congregational bodies, in the city and its suburbs. We esteem this as a mark of true Christian friendship, and are led to say, “Behold, how good and how pleasant a thing it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.” Jesus saith, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

3rd.—All the religious services in connection with the Conference were of a highly interesting and edifying character, and attended with a very gracious influence ; but none more so than the Ordination service, when seven of your Ministers, who had honorably completed their probation, came forward before the public congregation and gave a brief yet clear account of their conversion and call to the Ministry, when solemn and fervent prayer was offered up to Almighty God in their behalf by the senior Ministers,

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and a suitable, pointed, powerful charge was given them by our venerable Brother Davison. They were then received into full connexion by the dear Brethren, giving them the right hand of fellowship, while the Congregation joined in singing,—

“ Together let us sweetly live,  
Together let us die.”

On the following day, the President, in the name of the Conference, presented each of the newly Ordained Brethren with a beautiful bound copy of the Holy Scriptures.

On Wednesday morning, April 25th, the members of the Conference, and many other friends, sat down to a public and sumptuous breakfast, kindly provided by our liberal and hospitable friends in Toronto. This also was a season of peculiar enjoyment. Contrasting the present aspect of our beloved Connexion with what it was a few years ago, we are led to say with adoring gratitude and wonder, “ What hath God wrought ? ” and cannot but “ thank God, and take courage.”

4th.—You will rejoice to learn that, through the praiseworthy efforts of our Missionary collectors and your liberality, the contributions to the General Mission Fund this year have far surpassed that of all former years, while our other Connexional Funds have received due support. This also is a token for good.

5th.—We are grateful to be able to inform you, that during the year, on all our Circuits and Stations, your Ministers and Missionaries have received their salaries.

6th.—Furthermore, we have during this Session established a Fund for the support of our Ministers’ children ; so that the Children’s allowances will in future be drawn from this source, instead of the Quarter-day Boards as formerly. Hence, Ministers and Stations will stand upon more equal ground ; no doubt all our friends will approve of this judicious arrangement.

7th.—Again your Lay Representatives, to their honour and your’s be it stated, have laudably resolved to advance the salaries of your Ministers, in order that they may justly and honourably meet the increased expenditure of the times, occasioned by the high price of provisions,—not doubting for a moment but that you will support them in this measure, as you believe “ the labourer is worthy of his hire.”

8th.—And it is with unfeigned joy that we tell you that our various Stations in general are in a sound and healthy state, and that after filling up the blanks occasioned by

deaths, removals, &c., we are able to report a net increase of 231 members for the year. To God be all the glory.

9th.—During the past year we have called into the Ministry two young men from among ourselves, and received two worthy and well-trying Ministers from England, viz., Brothers Crompton and Rowe, who are a great acquisition to our Ministerial staff.

10th.—As it regards our union with the Parent Body in England, the bond is waxing stronger and stronger; and as a proof of our increasing love toward it, and our confidence therein, we have kindly requested the British Conference to grant us Sixteen additional Missionaries, and Two Thousand Pounds, that we may be able to respond to the Macedonian cry that is reaching us from different parts, and enter those various openings that are presenting themselves unto us, and thus push our conquests East, West, North and South.

And now, dear Brethren, having given you a brief sketch of our proceedings during the sittings of Conference,—suffer us to remind you of your high privileges and sacred duties as Christians. Peter saith in one of his epistles, “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people,—that ye should show forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; which in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” Therefore, dearly beloved, as strangers and pilgrims, keep up the life and power of religion in your own souls; never suffer your religion to be of a doubtful character, but let your light shine with increasing lustre, and your love to God and man burn with an intenser flame. And that this may be your experience, it will be necessary to pay a strict regard to your closet duties. “Enter your closet” stately and frequently,—God will see, will meet you there, and will not fail to reward you openly. One great defect in the Christian Church at the present day, is the neglect of frequent, fervent private prayer. It was the love of private prayer that the great strength of the sainted and venerable Clowes, and our fathers, now with God, lay. It was by this means that they became so mighty in public, and were enabled to achieve such glorious victories. It was in close communion with God in the holy Mount, that Moses obtained the glory that shone so resplendently in his countenance when he came down among the people.

We feel fully persuaded, dear Brethren, that if you keep open the intercourse between your souls and God by secret

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devotion your family altar will be kept in good repair. The holy Bible will not be neglected by you, but you will have frequent recourse unto it. It will be the book of your daily studies, and your evening meditations; its laws and statutes will be your delight, and its precepts and precious promises your songs in the house of your pilgrimage. "The voice of joy and gladness shall be in your tabernacles;" and your children, under its holy influence, shall rise up and call you blessed: yes, those entrusted to your care and for your training shall be numbered with Salvation's heirs, if they are not already. Neither will you readily neglect the sanctuary, but you will cheerfully say, "Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem." You will be prepared to receive the Word with all meekness, and it will be spirit and life to your souls. You will cheer your Minister by your presence, and support him in his arduous work by your prayers. And, we would add, that where close communion in private is maintained with God by His people, prayer meetings will be sustained, and class meetings will not be slighted; the Lord's Supper will not be neglected,—you will not look coldly on the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of the dear Redeemer, and turn your back on such a holy and soul-reviving ordinance; but you will sit down at the banquet with great delight, "and His fruit will be sweet to your taste." Suffer us, then, to urge upon your attention this all-important duty, knowing that if this is sacredly and faithfully discharged, your other Christian duties will not be omitted; but your souls will be as a "well watered garden, and as a spring whose waters fail not;"—"Holiness to the Lord" will be written on your foreheads, and you will be "living epistles read and known of all men."

And now to conclude, we would most affectionately commend to your regard and care your beloved Ministers that are over you in the Lord, and that "watch for your souls as those that must give account." Let them share largely in your sympathies and prayers. They are men, not angels, therefore they will require to be borne up by you in your supplications at the Throne of Grace, if they must be useful to you and yours. Their request is that of the Apostles, "Brethren, pray for us."

Fulfil this desire, and "the Word of the Lord shall have free course and be glorified." Your Ministers have left the world and its avocations, that they may spend, and be spent in serving Christ; and they throw themselves upon your sympathy, and rely upon you for support. And one of the glories of our Church is our firm belief in,

and strict adherence to, the voluntary principle. It has worked wonders in the Mother Country, and in the United States,—and in our beloved Canada it may, and should have full scope. We are not burdened with poor laws and other heavy taxes, nor oppressed with a State Church ; so that we have good opportunities of developing the power and excellence of this God-like principle. We live in a land abounding with all good things. God has graciously given us fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Trade and commerce is in a thrifty state ; and the labourer is well remunerated for his daily toil. The Father of Lights is pouring His gifts into your laps, and increasing your wealth, and thereby increasing your responsibility ; therefore, as stewards of the manifold gifts of God, contribute freely of your substance to the support of your Ministers and of the Missionary cause, and of every other good institution designed to better the state of the world. What is appropriated to winning souls to Christ and the enlargement of his Church, and thereby helping to people heaven, is treasure that shall abide, and afford you endless satisfaction in glory, when houses and landed estates, and all earthly goods, shall have passed into oblivion. Come then, dear Brethren, “give as the Lord hath prospered you.” Let not the subscriptions of by-gone years, when provisions were cheap, and you were in more humble circumstances than you now are, be the rule of your giving : but as God hath abounded toward you in all goodness, may you abound in gratitude and gifts to Him,—

“To whom our more than all is due.”

The necessary advance of your Ministers' salaries call for enlarged contributions at your hands ; and no doubt you will cheerfully respond unto this claim. It was found by calculation that, if *five shillings* per member per quarter could be raised by public collections, quarterage, &c., we should have ample funds to meet every demand, and to carry on the work of God with increased vigour. Many of our members far exceed that sum, while others are much below it. But let us all do what we can, that it may be said to us in the last Day, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Brethren, the time is short, “the Judge is at the door.” Our Fathers and Brethren are passing away from our midst. Two of our worthy ministers, viz., Brother M. Nicholls and Brother J. R. Stephenson, were suddenly called from us during the past year, beside 34 Church Members, whom we hope ere long to meet in heaven,—

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"Therefore, beloved Brethren, be stedfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

"And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a Crown of glory that fadeth not away."

"Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy; to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory, and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and ever, Amen."

On behalf of the Conference,

T. ADAMS, *President.*

E. BARRASS, *Secretary.*

ADDRESS OF THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CANADIAN CONFERENCE, TO THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST ENGLISH CONFERENCE:

PREPARED BY THOMAS CROMPTON.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto you from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with great pleasure we address you from this our second Conference, not merely for the sake of reciprocal fellowship, but inasmuch as we earnestly wish for the strongest and closest union to exist between yourselves and us, your Transatlantic offspring; and, because from our hearts we desire, a refreshing, encouraging, stimulating intercourse to be maintained between us and you, which may, under God, subserve to carry out, as far as practicable, in this great land, a similar spirit of enterprize and indomitable energy, which have characterized Primitive Methodism from its commencement. We do hope, dear Fathers and Brethren, ever to have a place in your sympathy and solitudes; and, also, for a long time yet, to share your liberal support; for we can assure you, there is a great work in Canada for Primitive Methodism to do, if agency and means can be procured.

We are most happy to state, that the deliberations of this Conference have been distinguished for great anxiety, that such measures should be adopted, which would contribute to a hearty co-operation among the brethren, binding their hearts and hands together in holy union, and their lives to the good work of God, in connection with Primitive Methodism in Canada. And we entertain a hope that as the result of this Conference, there will be increased devotedness to God, and to the interests of his church, both by

ministers and people. Great harmony, on the whole, prevailed throughout the session of Conference, considering the important matters which had to engage attention; and, we believe, the brethren would go to their stations with their minds girt anew for the mighty conflict against evil, and to extend the kingdom of Christ.

The Conference was held in Toronto, which city bids fair for becoming the metropolis of the Upper Province. At the urgent request of Wesleyan, New Connexion, and Congregational ministers, the pulpits of those gentlemen were occupied by our brethren, to the great satisfaction of the ministers and their flocks. The Missionary Meeting was held in Richmond Street Wesleyan Chapel, the largest in the city. It was a good meeting, and, we doubt not, would have a telling effect upon the large audience present. The opportunity was embraced to make known what Primitive Methodism had been, and what it is. The Temperance Meeting was effective, and all the religious services were distinguished for soundness, solidity and unction.

We are happy to state, that notwithstanding great losses have been sustained by the removal of members, many of whom go to localities where we have no existence, and hence, become entirely lost to our body, yet those chasms have been filled up, and we have realized an increase of 231. This increase, we admit, is very small; but we are thankful to God for those, considering the large proportion which go seeking a livelihood beyond the bounds of our stations. And, while on this subject, we would remark, that until we can take within our sphere of operation, a much larger portion of the country, it will be our lot to labour, very much for the *increase of other churches*, which gather our members when they settle where Primitive Methodism does not exist. Were we more diffusive we should stand a chance of receiving into society elsewhere those who are constrained by circumstances to leave our present stations and settle in the back townships; thus, in many instances at least, we should keep the fruit of our toil, while our extended cause would advance with the growth of rising settlements and towns. But where we have no existence, we cannot, of course, improve with the lapse of time.

If you can, dear Fathers and Brethren, do any thing for Canada in an extraordinary way, just now, that its mighty developements are opening up in a manner they have not done heretofore, and large tracts of country are being taken beyond existing towns and settlements, and among the numbers who are thronging into the back country, not a few of our officials and members are going, we urgently

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beg you, to give us special help ; for be assured, that Primitive Methodism is destined to be stunted and dwarfish for a long time to come, if something more is not done, and that soon, to extend our cause in Canada. We are few in number, and our geographical territory is very limited, to what it ought to be ; and considering the large number that come from home to Canada ; considering our comparatively near proximity to England ; and considering that Primitive Methodism in its general polity and spirit, will, we think, be specially the kind of Methodism for ultimate acceptance and success in Canada if probably maintained ; we pray, for the sake of this great land, for the sake of numbers of our friends, scattered up and down in it, for the sake of the salvation of present settlers, and for the sake of future generations ; that you will, dear Fathers and Brethren, to the utmost of your power, accede to our calls for the assistance we so much require.

It affords us great pleasure to state, that while many of our friends are advancing in wealth, there is considerable advancement in their financial support of the work of God. You will be pleased to hear that the missionary revenue raised in Canada, has reached the handsome sum of £700 currency for the last year ; while praiseworthy efforts are being put forth in building chapels and parsonage houses. Thus, you see, while we ask your sympathy and assistance, we are vigorously endeavouring to help ourselves.

It is with sorrow we remind you, that death has broken into our ranks during the past year, and taken from us Brothers M. Nichols, and J. R. Stephenson ; two brethren, one of whom had been a successful labourer in the vineyard for several years, and the other was full of promise and hope. The former fell a victim to Asiatic cholera, the latter was drowned in Lake Erie. These sad events have been deeply regretted amongst us, and we trust they have not been without their effect in stimulating us who are left, "to work while it is day."

And now dear Fathers and Brethren, allow us to express our deep sympathy with you, and assure you, that distance of place, and difference of circumstances, will not, we believe, have a severing effect upon our union ; and, we trust the time is very far distant, when the connection that now exists will cease to be. We need your *sympathy*, we need your *counsel*, we need your *means*, and we need *agents* from *your ranks* for the great work. We can neither raise men nor means among ourselves for present exigencies ; and the probability is, that even in the distant future, means will be more available here than men.

In conclusion, dear Fathers and Brethren, we take the liberty to express our hope, that the Divine Spirit may preside over your assembly; for we regard the Primitive Methodist Conference in England now, as a *great assembly*. Vast interests depend upon it, both for home and abroad. We all know that effects will proceed from your Conference in West Street Chapel Hull, that will be felt by distant countries and people, and by generations yet to rise up in the world. May the Great Master of Assemblies be with you, and guide and bless you, is the prayer, dear Fathers and Brethren, on behalf of the Canadian Conference, of

Yours faithfully, in Christ Jesus,

THOMAS ADAMS, *President*.

EDWARD BARRASS, *Secretary*.

Q.—18. *What are the addresses of the Stations, &c., for the ensuing year?* Ans.

*Missionary Secretary*, -Mr. W. Lawson, Hamilton City.

*General Treasurer*, Mr. R. Walker, Toronto City.

Toronto, E. Barrass, Sec. of Con., Agnes St., Toronto City.

Yorkville, R. Cade, Yorkville; Post Office, Toronto.

Etobicoke, J. Garner, Parsonage, Gore of Toronto, Humber Post Office, near Clairville, C. W.

Markham, J. Lacey, Victoria Square Post Office, Markham.

Darlington, J. Edgar, Bowmanville, C. W.

Albion, J. Natrass, Parsonage, Bolton's Village Post Office.

Scarboro', R. Poulter, Parsonage, Scarboro' Post Office.

Reach, W. Lyle, Parsonage, Epsom P. O., Ontario Co., C. W.

Kingston, T. Crompton, Kingston Post Office.

Portland, J. Simpson.

Brampton, R. Boyle, Parsonage, Brampton, Chinguacousy.

Hamilton, W. Rowe, Parsonage, John Street, Hamilton City.

Walpole and G. River, W. J. Dean, Parsonage, Williams-ville, Walpole.

Blenheim, W. Newton, Parsonage, Blenheim Post Office.

Galt and Guelph, J. Davison, Galt Post Office.

Orangeville, T. Dudley, Orangeville Post Office, via Toronto

Peel and Wellesley, S. Driffield, Elora, Wellington Co., C. W.

Woodstock, R. Parsons, Woodstock Post Office.

Paris and Brantford, T. Adams, President of Conference, Paris Post Office.

London, W. Stephenson, London, C. W.

Brant, W. Lomas.—*Bosanquet*, I. Ryder.

Signed by Order, and on behalf of the Conference,

THOMAS ADAMS, *President*.

EDWARD BARRASS, *Secretary*.

TORONTO CITY,  
April 25, 1855.

*T.A.S.*  
*Apr. 21. 9. 15 no cover*