

MR. PUNSHON.

At the close of a year's incessant travel and toil Mr. Punshon a month or two ago left Canada on a holiday visit to his native land. On his arrival in England, he was welcomed by his old friends and, indeed, by the British public generally, with undisguised affection and enthusiasm.

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learn of his safe return from England. We trust he will have a highly successful year personally and officially. He will need another period of recreation early next summer. It would afford him much refreshment of spirit in the heats of the early summer tide to breathe for a few weeks the cool sea air that fans our shores at that pleasant season. Coming among us at that agreeable time, he would doubtless have delightful companionship.

English tourists are pouring into France and are curiously tramping over the fields, which at this time last year were red with the best blood of Germany and France. No accurate account will ever be given of the fearful losses entailed by this most sanguinary war. Happy will it be if the nations will but learn to be wise, and dread, as to arms for the settlement of their disputes.

The Imperial Parliament was prorogued a few weeks ago. The Queen was absent and the ceremony was exceedingly tame and commonplace. The release from Parliamentary duties was eagerly hailed by all concerned, and it is felt that the results of the session are very meagre and unsatisfactory.

Another demand upon the public purse has been made upon Prince Arthur attaining his majority, and £15,000 a year is voted for the purpose of providing for his future maintenance. It is claimed that this but it has occasioned another of those unhappy controversies, upon the status of the Royal Family, and the service they render, or ought to render to the State, for the heavy sums which are being paid them.

The sad catastrophe at Stowmarket in Suffolk which nearly thirty lives were lost through the explosion of a Gun Cotton Manufactory, has been followed by an awful explosion in a Coal Mine near Wigan, and sixty-nine men or boys have perished.

The harvest is being garnered in good condition, and with much ease, as we are favored with just such weather as is needed. It is too soon to give an estimate of the actual yield of the Home Harvest, but it is

thought to be a little under the average, and in consequence prices have not declined, although the weather has been so fine, and so much corn has been secured in excellent condition.

France is quiet, and rests after its late terrific storm. There are no apparent prospects of evil things concerning the immediate future of France, but just for the present they are resting. Theirs is the "President of the Republic" such as it is, and is a master of the situation. He has obtained a fresh lease of power, for absolutely there is no other man who could command any thing like respect or support as the nominal ruler of France.

The trials of the Communists are yet proceeding. Two only have yet been condemned to death and it is probable that there will be but very few executions to swell the numbers of those who have already fallen in this deplorable internal strife of the people.

The mode of distributing the grant is being the subject of much discussion. In Financial District Meetings, the Circuits are estimated as likely to raise each so much for the coming year; then a proportion of Grant is set down for each Circuit on a scale which leaves them all with an equal deficiency.

Our proposals is to divide our Circuits by some such rule as the following, the division of course to be effected by a competent committee, and the circuits to hold always the privilege of appealing to said committee in the event of any supposed injustice in the necessity of raising or lowering circuits in the scale of proportion:

Table with columns: Circuits, Class, To Raise for C. F., Each, Total.

The proportion of the highest Circuit in comparison with those of a lower classification is not as much as one-third as according to the method followed at present. In other words, the Circuits charged above with \$185 has been contributing \$300; but the proportion could be easily altered if the committees deemed it proper.

We have based these figures on the numerical proportion of a single District, but any one can see it could be done as readily for the entire Conference. Thus, all adjustment of Children's Fund taxation would be avoided in Financial Districts and a consequent source of trouble laid aside.

This plan divides our Circuits into six classes, and as Dependent Circuits and Home Missions constitute two-thirds of the whole number, a great deal of time is saved in treating them on a common principle, the division of grant leaving them with an equal unprovided for deficiency.

The Division of Grant; CONTINGENT FUND. When this Conference was organized the support previously extended to the Methodist cause in these Maritime Provinces was continued under the form of an annual grant. During recent years urgent representation have been made by the Home Secretaries of Foreign Missions in regard to the necessity of withdrawing a portion of this grant each advancing year.

ance and comparatively weak in Methodist resources, altogether on our hands. Perhaps to this apprehension of reduced financial resources is owing in part the origin and present efficiency of our Home Mission operations.

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Foot's corner of your last P. W. appropriately expresses my present feelings:—"The way is dark, my Father! cloud on cloud is gathering thickly of my head, and loud the thunder roars above me. See I stand! Like one bewildered I Father take my hand And through the gloom Lead safely home Thy child."

I am endeavoring with all my heart to believe that "all things shall work together for my good." Through the assistance of the Chairman and other Brethren arrangements have been made to have all the appointments filled for three months. I endeavor to attend to my pastoral duties, and preach occasionally myself, so that I trust the Circuit will suffer no material loss.

W. H. CLARK.

PETITE RIVIERE.

We have just held our Home Missionary Meetings here, and though only one day's meeting, it was given owing to the late publication of the plan in the Wesleyan, we have done much better than last year. Our collections and subscriptions are already nearly two hundred per cent. in advance of the past.

CATALINA—I was surprised in looking over the Missionary Report not to find Petites and Chanel. I see the money is all right, that is the sum total for Newfoundland, so only the list of names is, through some oversight, left out. Will you please insert a brief notice in the Wesleyan to the friends at Petites and Chanel concerning the mistake. If you cannot do this for each place, I left one at Petites, and I dare say he has one at Chanel.

Home Mission Intelligence. ALBION MINES CIRCUIT. The Minutes of the British Conference for 1845, inform us that, during that year, the Rev. R. Weddall labored upon this circuit. There are those still here who remember him and speak of his usefulness. He had no immediate successor, why— we cannot say. Of course Methodist work has been in a different position to day in Hudson Co., had the ground once travelled by Mr. Weddall been held and worked by ministers of our Body. There seems to have been an interregnum of about fifteen years. Some ten years ago Mr. Cassidy found his way to Albion Mines, and to him Methodist work in this place owes its present organized form.

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over the rocks and through the bogs a distance of 12 miles. One striking feature in the programme was a Bachelor's Table, which did great credit to the young men who provided, and the young ladies who prepared the provisions. It might be justly said of the people, that they did what they could. Even the Catholics attended the tea and the lecture in the evening, and seemed to take a great interest in the whole proceedings.

When I came to this Circuit and saw the piece of land which had been purchased for the erection of the new parsonage, I felt sad at heart, and at once told the people that I could not make an effort to get a cent towards the erection of a parsonage on such a site, as it was an Island. I know that Methodist preachers are not infallible, but I hope we have not done anything to deserve banishment. Well what were we to do, some of the people said that they had been trying for years to get a suitable site but in vain. I now asked them to try Sammy Hick's plan, viz., pray about it, and so we did, and in a little time we had the offer of the best acre of land in the whole neighborhood, only a few hundred yards from the Church. Praise the Lord he still answers prayer. We have this day turned the first sod preparatory to building, and we hope to get the house finished in three months.

W. H. CLARK.

MOUNT ALLISON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—You are doubtless made acquainted, by those who are best able to inform you of the condition, and operations of our Educational Institution in Sackville, in all its departments, Academic, and Collegiate; but I sometimes think it would be well if the attention of our own people, and the friends of education generally in these Provinces, was more frequently called to the subject. It will I am sure be matter of satisfaction and thankfulness to God, on the part of the friends through our Conference bounds; to know that the work of the year, is progressing harmoniously, and I believe with great efficiency, in every department of the Institution.

Another thing noteworthy is the physical convenience and comfort for which provision is made; neither trouble nor expense has been spared to make the buildings externally attractive, and internally comfortable. It is well known to many that at a very large expense the Ladies' Academy has been furnished with a new heating apparatus, which has greatly added to the interior appearance of the building, and works admirably, and other necessary and important improvements have been made. The Young Ladies will find all that is necessary to minister to their health and comfort, and that however cold the coming winter may happen to be, our only regret is, that there is not a much larger attendance; but there probably will be during the next term. We can assure our friends there is everything to encourage them to send their daughters here. Professor and Mrs. Inch, will give them a hearty welcome and make them feel at home. I confess that one thing a little surprises me, namely, the fact that at present there are only two representatives from among the daughters of our Ministers. Brothers of the Conference who have young and rising families will soon have daughters eligible to send here; and the succession will doubtless run on. And let us hope that financially, they will find no insuperable difficulty in the way. I am sure the character and success of our Educational Institution here, only needs to be well known to be deservedly popular. The past history of this Institution is one which may be reviewed with satisfaction and thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church. The present is in a very high degree encouraging; and we believe, as we devoutly and earnestly pray, that a glorious future may mark its forward progress.

Sackville, N. B., Sept. 26, 1871.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE "PROVINCIAL BUILDING SOCIETY" AS A LOAN FUND ASSOCIATION.

In reference to our remarks in last week's Visitor, we pointed to the admirable arrangements made and the interests of all so happily combined in the organization of this Society to meet the requirements of all classes in the community; we urged the young folks of both sexes to look the important question involved full in the face, i. e., to make a beginning, to lay up for future years, by increasing their monthly savings, and converting all their cash spare from present wants into productive capital! Our young friends would do well to bear in mind that these suggestions once commenced and vigorously carried forward, would, in a few years, enable them to begin business or housekeeping (as the case may be) on a much more advantageous footing than is generally the case; the acceptance of this system of utilizing savings is open to all. Housekeepers and families of every degree will benefit themselves and find it profitable to own stock in "The Provincial Building Society." We esteem this Society as the best ideal of a thoroughly safe, prudently managed institution.

As a Loan Association, with ample funds, it meets the wants of families who desire to own the house they pay rent for; it meets the aspirations of the business man who may not think it prudent to borrow. His business, by withdrawing the amount necessary to purchase a residence for his family; it meets the requirements of the farmer who may desire to remove some incumbrance, or who may wish to improve and develop the capabilities of his farm by a more vigorous style of management, all these desires may be accomplished through the instrumentality of the Society. Loans are made for ten years, at six and a half per cent per annum. Loans are made repayable by monthly repayments of \$1.38 for every \$100 loaned; this includes principal and interest. To illustrate: if \$1000 is loaned, the interest is \$656—altogether \$1656; this amount is placed at his debit when the loan is made; the monthly repayment is 13.90; these repayments continued for 120 months clear off the indebtedness of the borrower. The Director's office may pay by quarterly or half-yearly payments. The arrangement suits parties who reside at a distance, or whose income is received quarterly or half-yearly. These arrangements will convince any one (if need be) that the Society is a most desirable and profitable institution.

LETTER NO. VII. DATED HALIFAX, AUG. 21, 1871. Dr. Green says—"The kindness of friends, the strengthening influence of the sea air, and the charming scenery around here, induced us to protract our delightful visit here for a few weeks longer than we had designed to do when we left home; but to-morrow morning we set our faces towards Ontario. Our visit here has, in all respects, been agreeable and pleasant beyond anything we had anticipated; and to ourselves at least, highly satisfactory. Mr. and Mrs. Morrow and their interesting and pious family could not have been kinder to us than they have been. I have heard their four city ministers preach very good sermons, which would be no disgrace to any pulpit in the Dominion; but a little more naturalness with some and a little more energy with others, would do them no harm. I have enjoyed the company of the venerable Mr. Pope very much, while we have recounted some of the battles we have fought in our palmy days, but which we can never fight again.

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