

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, IN CANADA ;

held at Wessel's Chapel, Sophiasburg: commencing Wednesday, 4th. Sept. 1839.

QUESTION 1st.—What Preachers are admitted on trial ?

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|------------------|------------------|
| • James Mitchel, | I. N. D. West |
| Emerson Bristol | Gideon Shepard |
| Barnabas Markle | Henry Lane |
| Appleton Jones | Samuel D. Shorts |
| Robert Lyman. | |

QUESTION 2nd.—What preachers remain on trial ?

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Christopher Thompson | Ira Bently |
| Edwin S. Furman | Richard Beal |
| Thomas Webster | George D. Greenleaf. |

Note. Those Preachers on trial marked thus • are ordained Deacons.

QUESTION 3rd.—Who have been admitted into full connexion.

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| John Sills | William Bird |
| Henry H Johnson | Barnabas Brown. |

QUESTION 4th.—Who are the Deacons?

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Davy | *William Bird |
| Francis Bird | •Barnabas Brown |
| Wm. E. Normon | *John Sills |
| Leonard D. Salsbury | •James Mitchell |
| Joseph H. Leonard | •Christopher Thompson |

•These were ordained this year

QUESTION 5th.—Who are the Elders ?

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|------------------|----------------------|
| David Culp | Thadeus Lewis |
| Philander Smith | James McNally |
| James Richardson | Jesse Owen |
| John Bailey | • Carroll Sutherland |
| John H. Huston | • Nathan Parks |

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- Benson Smith
- Caleb Sweazy
- David Perry
- George Turner
- Henry H. Johnson,
- Henry Gilmore
- John W. Byam
- David Griffin
- Charles Pettis

• These were ordained this year.

QUESTION 6th.—Who is the general Superintendent?
JOHN REYNOLDS.

QUESTION 7th.—Who have Located this year?—None.

QUESTION 8th.—Who are the Supernumeraries?
Caleb Sweazy
Carroll Sutherland
David Perry

QUESTION 9th.—Who are the superanuated preachers this year?

- Philander Smith,
- Charles Pettis,
- George Turner,

QUESTION 10th.—Who have been expelled from the connexion this year?—None.

QUESTION 11th.—Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?—None.

QUESTION 12th.—Were all the Preachers characters examined?

This was strictly attended to.

QUESTION 13th.—Who have died this year?—None.

QUESTION 14th.—What are the numbers in Society?

Niagara Circuit,	130.
Camboro "	316.
Nelson "	244.
Young-Street "	136.
Whitbey "	261.
Dumfries "	162, & 79 Indians.
Blenhiem "	240.
Long Point "	31.
London "	200.
Thames "	85.
Malahide "	120.

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Toronto City	25.
Augusta Ct.	385.
Elizabethtown	412.
Waterloo "	392.
Bay Quinte	251.
Hallowell "	313.
Belleville "	403.
Brighton "	424.
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	4512
Indians.	79
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Total	4,591
Total last year	4177
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Increase this year	414.

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QUESTION 15th.—Where are the preachers stationed this year?

NIAGARA DISTRICT, DAVID CULP, P. E.

- Niagara Circuit. Francis Bird.—one to be supplied.
- Camboro " Léonard D. Salisbury, Robert Lyman.
- Nelson " Tho's Webster, Barnabas Brown.
- Toronto Circuit, To be supplied
- Toronto City James Richardson.
- Young Street Richard Beal
- Whitby " Nathan Parks.—one to be supplied.

LONDON DISTRICT, JOHN BAILEY P. E.

- Dumfries Cir't. Henry Gilmore Emerson Bristle
- Blenheim " William Bird, Barnabas Markle.
- London " James Mitchell Appleton Jones
- Thames " Ira Bentley—one to be supplied.
- Malahide " Edwin S. Furman
- Long Point " Jesse Owen.

BAY QUINTE DISTRICT, BENSON SMITH, P. E.

- Brighton Circuit Henry H. Johnson Thaddeus Lewis
- Belleville " George D. Greenleaf.
- Hallowell " Michael Davey Sam'l D. Shorts
- Windsor " Jos' H. Leonard, one to be supplied.

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Bay	“	William E. Norman—one to be supplied
Waterloo	“	John Sills, Christopher Thompson.
Elizabethtown	“	John W. Byam, Henry Lane
Augusta	“	Gideon Shepard James McNally
Matilda	“	I. N. D. West.
Rideau	“	John H. Huston.

QUESTION 16th. When, and where shall our next Conference be held?

Comer's Chapel, Yonge street, on the 1st, wednesday in Sept. at the hour of 10 A. M.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA:

BELoved BRETHREN:

Another eventful year has rolled away since we, your servants for Jesus' sake, last addressed a Pastoral epistle to you. Being again permitted, in the order of Divine Providence, to meet together for Conference, we take the occasion to approach, after the usual manner, with a few words of congratulation and advice.

It becomes us, in the first place, to acknowledge the good hand of our God upon us in preserving our lives and health during the year past, and in bringing us all unscathed through the tumults and troubles unfortunately agitating and distracting our beloved country since we were last assembled, the storm, thank God, appears at present to have passed over, and in reviewing its effects on our religious community, while we find some things afflictive and painful to our minds, in the removal of many of our old and influential members, we find much to be thankful for. God by his Wisdom and grace has enabled us, we trust, so to conduct ourselves and order our steps as to gain on the confidence of the public, and the affection of our dear brethren. Our aim has been, and we hope will continue to be, to mind our *one* business—that of saving souls, and to “follow peace with all men.” Ardently as we desire to see the laws and institutions of our Country so ordered and established as to secure the fullest measure possible of civil, and religious liberty; yet we cannot stoop

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from our high and holy calling, to enter the arena of political strife, or attempt to guide the political movements of the day; but must leave such matters to those to whom they properly appertain.

On reviewing our labours the past year, we find much to encourage—the numerical increase comes considerably short of the foregoing year; this is mainly owing to the numerous removals of our friends from the Province, yet our returns present the cheering increase of 414 members to our societies so that the total number of the souls under our care comes up to 4,591 and we feel ourselves fully warranted to believe that the christian knowledge, strength, and stability of our Church, both ministers and people, have greatly increased and afford the fairest prospect of progressive improvement in time to come.

The present session of our Conference has been characterized for regularity, harmony and despatch of business; giving increasing confidence in each other, and promising the happiest results.

The present being the 100th year since the formation of the first Methodist society under the care of the late John Wesley, is attracting the attention of those who profess to be the successive fruits of his arduous and persevering labours, piety and wisdom; among whom we as a people claim to be numbered. We therefore have judged it proper to put forth an effort to improve the occasion; and have taken measures accordingly, which the preachers on their several Circuits will bring before you. While we solicit your pecuniary aid in support of those institutions of Methodism, to which, under God, we all acknowledge ourselves deeply indebted, we would invite you to use the event as one suited to remind us of the primitive simplicity, diligence, patience and zeal of our fathers in the early days of Methodism; and to revive those first and fundamental principles and practice by which they were eminently distinguished in their Characters, and owned of God in their labours. Should the centenary be improved to this end, it will indeed prove a blessed event to the Church. We cannot be too frequently, or forcibly reminded of the primitive simplicity, in dress, and manners, the fervent devotion,

the self denial, and active zeal of our first Methodist Fathers and Matrons. Let us understand this, and follow them as they followed Christ—Then no longer will our fine Gold become dim, nor need we then fear that *Ichabod* shall be written on our institutions, or the Glory depart from Israel.

Some openings presenting themselves for Missionary exertions, the Conference have turned their attention to this important department of the ministerial work and have reorganized the "Missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada," on a plan similar to its original formation; and we earnestly, and affectionately invite our brethren and friends throughout the Province to unite and direct their efforts towards the promotion of this noble and benevolent object, by forming auxiliary and branch societies wherever practicable throughout all our Circuits and stations.

By reference to the Minutes, it will be perceived that considerable addition has been made to the number of our itinerant labourers; and while this tends to cheer our spirits, and affords additional evidence of the continued care and provision of Him, who is head over all things to the Church, in calling more labourers into the harvest; it presents an occasion to remind our beloved brethren of the importance—yea absolute necessity—of an improvement in raising the means of support for their ministers and families, while labouring in the gospel field. The duty of providing for those who have left their worldly avocations, and, devoting their time and energies to the work of preaching the gospel, have thrown themselves upon the voluntary contributions of their brethren must be obvious to every one. Beside, the duty is so clearly enjoined in the word of God, which declares his will—"that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel"—that no society or individual can expect to prosper or receive a blessing from God, who is remiss in this respect; and therefore with an eye to your own profit, as well as the improvement, success and comfort of the itinerancy, do we call your attention to this important subject. We want system and uniformity in the manner of raising and appropriating the supplies for the maintenance of the preachers and their families; and on this the Conference has given instructions to its

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members, and to the carrying out of which we earnestly invite the co-operation of our brethren in all our societies.

We take this opportunity of enjoining upon you as those who love your souls and watch for your welfare, as those who must give an account, the necessity of "walking circumspectly." As *Methodists* we are, especially, called to order our conversation aright." To mind every part of our excellent rules, and attend closely to all the appointed means of grace, Cultivate the minds and have fixed principles of action—Serve the Scriptures and take them for your only rule as they are the sufficient rule for your faith and practice. Be guarded against pretenders to Divine Revelations, and be assured that every one professing to direct his fellow men in their faith and practice by any immediate Revelation from Heaven, is seeking to impose on your credulity, that he may ensnare your souls, by teaching dogmas of his own. To suppose that any man since the days of the Apostles, has immediate Revelations from God to direct our faith and practice, is to suppose the Scriptures as a rule, not sufficient, and consequently, to be led and carried about by every wind of doctrine and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. These pretended revelations are the ground of all the fanaticism which has affected the Christian Church since the apostolic age; as a reference to Church history will clearly show. We advert to this, now, because our Country has been, of late, and is yet, to a great extent, plagued with many such pretenders.

We would also remind you, dear brethren, that the efficacy and stability of the institutions of our Church depend greatly on your close and regular attention to Class and quarterly Meetings, Guard vigilently against any disposition to absent yourselves from these important Meetings.

Finally, dear brethren, Remember at all times that we are called "to let our light shine before men, that they seeing our good works, may glorify our Father in Heaven," and

by every means in our power to steadily and perseveringly promote the Redeemers Kingdom among men.

And may "tho very God of peace sanctify you wholly" and preserve you blameless unto his everlasting Kingdom.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Conference assembled at Sophiasburgh, 10th Sept. 1839.

JOHN REYNOLDS, *President.*

JAMES RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

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Names, and standing of the Local preachers in connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Canada.

John Black,	Daniel Collard,
James Gordon,	Leonard Haney, Deacon.
Charles Underhill,	Gilbert Lane,
Joshua Webster, Elder.	John Upper,
Alex'r. Wright,	Lawrence Hager, Deacon.
William Sills,	And'w Baughart,
Edward Squires,	Wm. Rogers,
Wm. Ranous,	Ransom Dexter,
Wm. Williams,	Charles Keeler,
Alfred Wood,	Cha's. Reed,
James Robison,	Matthias How,
Geo. Sills, Elder elect.	Jacob Patterson, Dea. elect.
Zebediah Mell,	Amos Bradshaw,
John Gibson,	Jeremiah Cutler,
Augustus Shorts, Elder.	Morris Kennedy, Deacon.
Daniel Unger,	Geo. Fisher, Deacon.
Benjamin Lewis,	Geo. Jones, Deacon.
—Coates,	Jared L. Sweet,
Alex'r. Forrister,	Caleb Taylor, Deacon.
John Ham, Elder.	Tho's Brown,
John Elliott, Deacon.	Wm. Cartwright,
Jabz Bullis, Deacon.	James Shaw,
Elisha Landon, Deacon.	Tho's Loudon.
Elijah Mudge, Deacon.	Ja's Bradshaw, Deacon.
Ja's Bailey, Deacon.	William Hill,
	Joseph Lockwood, Deacon.

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MINUTES.

OF THE
PARENT MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CONVENED BY APPOINTMENT, ACCORDING TO
ARTICLE 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION, AT WESSELS
CHAPEL, HALLOWELL, SEPT. 9TH, AT HALF PAST
SIX O'CLOCK P. M.

Meeting opened with prayer by the President, John Reynolds, who also addressed the meeting as to the object of this society.

The following report was then read, and adopted.

REPORT.

The Board of Managers, to whom were committed various important duties, relative to the Missionary operations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Upper Canada, are happy in being able to lay before this first Anniversary of the Parent Society some pleasing intelligence.

We have learned that, during the last year, there have been four auxiliary Societies formed in accordance with the requisition of the Parent Society of last year, at its organization. The Board are not, now, prepared to say how much has been raised at the auxiliaries since they were formed; as it has not received official accounts from them.

It will be borne in mind by this Society, that these, are yet but in their infancy; and that, consequently, they have scarcely had any thing like successful operation. The managers beg leave to lay one item of intelligence before this Society, which it appears cannot, but interest it. During the

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last year there have been several Indians of the Mohawk tribe converted through the instrumental ty of one of the members of the Parent Society ; and who have associated themselves with the Methodist Episcopal Church. We, also, learn that others of this tribe have joined with them ; so that in all seventy nine have thrown themselves upon this Society, by joining the Church, and are looking that it will provide for them a spiritual teacher : one who can go out, and in before them, and break to them the bread of life.

Others, also, of the same tribe, it is fully beleived, will follow the example of their brethren ; and avail themselves of the ministry of our Church. These indians in their present condition, we think, require the assistance of this Society ; in the support of a Missionary among them.

The Board have learned, also, that there are destitute settlements, in different sections of the Province, who are looking to this Society for it to provide spiritual teachers for them ; and that in order to a greater extension of the work of God, these settlements actually require assistance from the society.

The Board has alluded to these facts, not with a view of dictating to this Society any mode of procedure ; but in order to bring the subject before it.

There are, now, in the Parent Society, including the officers, twenty six members. The amount received from the Parent Society is £5 0s, C'y. There is now due £1 1s Currency.

With the best wishes for the prosperity, and perpetuation of this Society, we submit the above Report !

Joseph H. Leonard
Francis Bird
Thadeus Lewis
John H. Huston
Benson Smith

} *Managers.*

The following resolutions were then adopted.
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try is such as presents an interesting field for Missionary labour.

2nd.—Moved, by James Richardson, and seconded by John Baily, that the success which has ever attended Missionary effort gives us great encouragement to proceed in that work, in this land.

3rd.—Moved, by J. H. Leonard, and Seconded by B. Smith—that inasmuch as there are numerous calls on the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, from various places, for spiritual instruction, it is the duty of the Church and all friends to the cause of religion in this land, to co-operate with the said Conference in its Missionary operations.

4th.—Moved, by Carrel Sutherland, and seconded by Geo Jones, that the following persons be the officers of this Society for the ensuing year; viz.

JOHN REYNOLDS,

President.

DAVID CULP,
JA'S. RICHARDSON,

} *Vice Presidents.*

Joseph H. Leonard,
Wm. E. Norman,
John Sills,
Benson Smith,
John W. Byam,
Gideon Shepard,
Leonad D. Salisbury,
John H. Huston,
Thadens Lewis,
Francis Bird,

} *Managers.*

After the above resolutions had been put, it was moved by Francis Bird, and seconded by Barnabas Brown,—That in consequence of the ill use which we as a people have made of our time, and property, in days that are past; as preachers and as friendly neighbours, now assembled, we do from this time, engage more than ever in the cause of Missions.

The Resolution was adopted, after which a public collection was taken up

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The following persons then entered their names as members of the parent Society.

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| Richard Beal | Jas. McCollough |
| James Mitchell | Silas Thompson |
| L. N. D. West | Mary Benson |
| Caleb Sweazy | Jas. Nisbit |
| Geo. Jones | Owen Wessel |
| Barnabas Brown | Mary Ann Corlett |
| Barnabas Markle | Wm. Morn. |
| Elizabeth Vanblaricum | Mary Thompson |

Meeting Closed with prayer by James Richardson,

GEO. D. GREENLEAF
Secretary.

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