

THE Provincial Wesleyan

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Wesleyan Book Room, 125 Granville St., Halifax, N. S. DEPOSITORY FOR ALL METHODIST PUBLICATIONS, And Sale-room for General Literature, Stationery, Blank Books, and SCHOOL BOOKS.

Religious Miscellany.

MR. GLADSTONE AS A POET.

The February number of the Contemporary Review contained a pleasant surprise. Besides an elaborate and eloquent dissertation on the famous episode of the shield of Achilles inserted in the eighteenth Book of the Iliad, there is a poem which upholds the old conservative belief that "the manners of the shield do not appear to differ from those of the poem generally."

God has honored us as a Church by giving us seals to our ministry. Every District has come up with the song of triumph. Increase of membership, or of those on trial, or of both has gladdened our hearts and caused us to take courage. Many brethren can tell of hard fought battles and triumphant victories; and those who have been sowing but not reaping can, at least, rejoice with those who do.

There is a danger of the shield being moulded. Broad and strong and wrought throughout, with a bright and sturdy tread. Therefore thick and round about: Downward hung the belt of silver, Five the layers of the shield, And with skillful hand he sculptured Rare devices o'er its field.

There is a danger of the shield being moulded. Broad and strong and wrought throughout, with a bright and sturdy tread. Therefore thick and round about: Downward hung the belt of silver, Five the layers of the shield, And with skillful hand he sculptured Rare devices o'er its field.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

The meeting of our yearly Conference is always an occasion of deep interest, not only to our friends residing where the session may be held, and to our people generally, but especially to the ministers comprising the body. It is the season of warm handshakes, kindly greetings; the time for the contracting of new friendships and the removal of old ones; for the interchange of kindly courtesies and the drawing closer all the bonds, which, as a brotherhood, bind us together.

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THE ANNUAL ADDRESS

DEARLY BELoved BRETHREN,—The Conference in which we are now assembled is one of more than ordinary importance, and occupies a point of historic interest in our existence as a Church.

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General Miscellany.

On receiving a basket of Mayflowers from my Nova Scotia home. The little cluster of those fragrant flowers, Wait to me memories of the woodland bowers, Where I in the days of the long ago,

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900 have been added to our roll from that island.

In reference to the different Conferences Funds it was found that there had been collected for Foreign Missions \$12,044 against \$12,568 for last year; Home Missions \$9,327, last year \$7,169; Contingent Fund \$1,428, last year \$1,308; Superannuation Fund \$3,150, last year \$2,548; Educational Fund \$1,370, last year \$1,325; thus showing an increase in all the funds over last year except the Foreign Missions.

The fact that the Home Mission has increased more than \$2,000, the largest increase for any year since it was established. The fact was brought to the notice of the Conference that some circuits which had adopted the "envelope system" were in the habit of raising all their funds by this means—the different amounts being appropriated to the various objects according to the judgment of the Quarterly Board.

After the devotional exercises and the reading of the minutes of the session was taken up in the discussion of a private matter. This was disposed of by the report of the Educational Committee was read by the Secretary, Rev. Joseph Hart. This report is always looked for with great interest by the Conference, although the action of the Board on the subject is indirectly under its supervision.

Dr. Allison then read his report. This speaks of great prosperity. There had been 89 students in attendance 83, of which had been resident boarders. He recommended a new building or enlarged accommodation for teaching in connection with the old.

Dr. Allison being called upon made a few remarks. He thought that the reading of the reports must have made the same impression upon the mind of the Conference, and that last two or three years had been upon his own mind—that so far from being their own money for the ministry and the laity to do, there was abundant cause for enlightenment and continued effort.

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