

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

For about three months to come, the United States will be greatly convulsed with political agitation. The Presidential contest between the respective supporters of Grant and Greeley is likely to prove unusually severe, and to excite almost universal interest.

The struggle for the Presidency between Grant and Greeley has more than common interest for Methodists generally. General Grant is the first Methodist adherent that has possessed the Chief Magistracy of the American Union.

To an impartial outsider it would seem that there is something to be said for and against each of the competitors in the great contest. Against Grant it may be said that whatever may be his capacity for the conduct of military affairs, he has displayed scarcely ordinary talent for statesmanship.

Against Greeley it may be asserted that he is crochety and unyielding, that he would be the tool of strong-willed, crafty designers, who would use him for the promotion of their own crooked purposes.

In behalf of General Grant it may be affirmed that he is a man of strong good common sense, that under his administration the Federal revenue has been much more faithfully collected than under the regime of Lincoln and Johnson.

In favour of Greeley it may be asserted that he is possessed of much mental vigour, has a reputation for honesty and sincerity, and has all his life long been in sympathy with the suffering and down-trodden among his fellow-men.

Taking everything pertinent to the case into consideration one can scarcely help concluding that the important interests at stake, national and international, would be better served by the re-election of Grant than by the election of Greeley.

It is difficult at this moment to forecast the result of this to-be fiercely conducted contest. The chances of the two competitors seem now not to be greatly unequal. Some time ago Grant's prospects were much the brighter. But the recent course of events has run strongly Greeley-wise.

be determined. Meanwhile one can only hope that Providence will guide the contest to the issue most favourable to the best interests of humanity.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

The Irish Conference—Conference in London, anticipations and arrangements—The improved weather.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The Irish Conference has just concluded its sitting, having been attended as usual, by the President of the English Conference, and a body of able and distinguished ministers from our side of the Channel.

The ordinary business of the Irish Conference strongly resembles that of the great General Assembly of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the ordination of those who have travelled the required number of years, the searching investigations of character, the work of the Stationing Committee, and the miscellaneous business pertaining to all departments of the work of Methodism.

Next Wednesday, July 31st, is the day appointed for the English Conference, at City Road Chapel, London. It was in London more than a century and a quarter ago that Mr. Wesley held the first London Conference.

Preparations are being made on a large scale, and commensurate with the greatness of the occasion. The Temperance gathering is to be held in Mr. Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle, a worthy place for so grand an object.

The outdoor exercises conducted by ministers and laymen will occupy about an hour, and then an adjournment will take place to the nearest chapel for a prayer-meeting and such further religious exercises as may be required.

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ENGLISH CONFERENCE SKETCHES.

[From the Methodist Recorder.]

The desks of improvised carpentry; the green baize of the upper house; the President looking as if he had just taken a long and tiring journey; the Secretary looking as if he had not just been across the Atlantic, and was not just going to be made President; the officials of the year looking just as if they had been mesmerized twelve months since, and were just about to slip into a trance.

As during the recess the daily press turns serene, lectures its readers on the religious aspects of the times, and preaches to preachers on the mode and matter of which sermons should be made, so once a year the gentlemen of Methodism have one occasion on which they say their say upon the needs of the modern Methodist pulpit.

The English Correspondent of the New York Christian Advocate in a letter dated the 19th ult., says: Dr. Hoole's place as Secretary of Missions is not to be filled up. In future the Mission House will be managed by three Secretaries.

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During the week now drawing towards a close some important committees have been held. One of these related to the schools for ministers' sons, Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove. It is proposed to make one of these a junior school, subordinate and preparatory to the other, and to make the high school inclusive of two departments, a modern and a classical.

Another subject upon which a special committee has reported during the week has been the re-arrangement of districts. They have prepared a most careful and comprehensive revision to lay before the Conference. This was purely a ministerial committee, but its work has only been preliminary. The committee's report will be laid before the Conference. It will then be remitted to the mixed district meetings throughout the country at their September meetings, (after the Conference.) These meetings will appoint each of them a subordinate committee, to examine the plan in its locality, and to report to the annual district meeting in May. That meeting will prepare a final report and judgment consequent on the discussion of the report of the subordinate committee. Then within a few weeks after there will be a large collective connectional committee, to consist of the chairman of each district, together with an elected lay representative from each, and the original committee which drew up the scheme, together with certain other laymen. This large meeting will consider all the reports and judgments of the various committees, and will prepare a final report on the whole scheme, to be laid before the ensuing Conference (1873) for adoption. In the way we are accustomed on this side to take the lay into conjunction with ourselves in all we do, except

only the direct and immediate act of stationing and the exercise of discipline over ministers. It has now become a constitutional principle with us that the laity must thus be associated with the ministry.

Miscellaneous.

THE KEOGH DEBATE.

It is impossible to over-estimate the gravity of the announcement made by the Irish Attorney-General in the House of Commons last Tuesday. The Government have determined to carry out the recommendation of the Keogh Commission, and to prosecute the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert, nineteen Roman Catholic priests, the unseated member, Captain Nolan, and his brother, Mr. Sebastian Nolan, as being guilty of undue influence, intimidation, and attempting to coerce the electors of the county of Galway by threats of temporal suffering and spiritual punishment.

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THE COAL FIELDS OF THE DOMINION.

THE COAL FIELDS OF THE LOWER PROVINCES, MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(For the Provincial Wesleyan.)

SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

It is pleasing to find that Surinam has some what anticipated Rule IX in the newly proposed Sunday-School Constitution, and that her School Anniversary in strict accordance with that rule, before its issue to the public.

On Sunday, July 21st, two sermons were preached in behalf of the School. On the following Wednesday, 25th, the Sabbath School Anniversary was celebrated at their parents, and all the Protestant friends of Surinam, took tea in the garden of John Knight, Esq., after which a very pleasant evening meeting was held on the lawn. W. S. McGowan, Esq. of Cardigan (formerly a resident in Surinam), occupied the chair. His Report, it was shown that there are fifty-five in attendance on the school, twenty-five of which form a small Bible-class of youths and adults. The number of children remaining is accounted for by the strong Roman Catholic influence in and around the village. But we thank God, Protestant influence is increasing with the growth of the place. The Sunday collection was \$10, which was very good.

At a very large temperance meeting which I addressed in Exeter Hall on Monday evening, Archbishop Manning was the speaker. His speech was very able. He is a long, hungry-looking man, with a keen eye, and was built for a Popish Bishop. It is not impossible that the sharp-witted Jesuit who made that clever speech the other evening may yet be Pope of Rome! Manning makes himself very affable and agreeable to the Protestant ministers here. He is a great pleasure to them. Next to Manning, the most important man who has come out lately for 'Prohibitory Temperance' law is old Thomas Carville. It is a wonder how any man of conscience and common sense can be behind the enormous course of drunkenness and sin which is the 'prohibitional'.

THE BAPTIST SEMINARY.

At the last meeting of the N. B. Baptist Education Society, the educational affairs of the denomination were, as appear by reports in the Visitor, fully discussed, and the Secretary at Fredericton was handed over for one year to the management of a committee composed of the following gentlemen:—Rev. T. H. Porter, Messrs. A. F. Standolph, T. H. Rand, A. D. Yerxa, C. L. Hartt, W. S. Estey, and Hon. Judge Steadman.

As a subsequent meeting of the committee, W. S. Estey, Esq., in the chair, the following results were arrived at: I. After discussion it was resolved that Rev. C. Spuden, D. D., be appointed as Principal of the Baptist Seminary for one year, for the purpose of instructing young men who have the military in view, and fitting them, as far as possible, for that work; and also of preparing such young men as desire it for the training school, and for Acadia College. That the Principal depend upon the representation of the voluntary contribution of churches and individuals favorable to the object, such remuneration not to exceed the sum of eight hundred dollars. If the contribution falling short of the amount, the Principal agreed to accept whatever is contributed; if they should exceed that amount, the excess shall be carried to the next year's account.

CHURCH OPENING.

The Wesleyan Church in this town was re-opened for Divine Service on Sunday last, as announced in our columns. Rev. J. S. Addy, of Berwick, officiated in the afternoon, and Rev. S. F. Hueston, of Horton, in the evening. Rev. W. Weddall, resident minister, was present in the afternoon. The discourse on both occasions were elaborate, and were listened to with marked attention by a large and able audience convened. No doubt a larger number would have been present had the day been more favorable, and had not the smallness of the town been a hindrance.

The London Watchman of July 24th, says seldom has a more momentous decision been taken by a Government than that announced by the Irish Attorney-General in the House of Commons yesterday. The Government have resolved to prosecute twenty-two of the persons named in the report of Mr. Justice Keogh as having been guilty of undue influence or intimidation in the Galway Election. These twenty-two persons include not merely Captain Nolan and his brother, but nineteen Roman Catholic priests and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert.

TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION.

MEN IN ENGLAND.

Rev. Dr. Cuyler writes from London to the Evangelist in this city: "I learned here that that banquet which tremendous obstacles to temperance reform has to encounter in English society. In 'high life' the wine-bottle is almost universal. It is even found at a majority of clergymen's tables! There is a growth of total abstinence among Christians manifest in Great Britain. But of the leading ministers in London only a half dozen have identified themselves with the abstinence movement."

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GOOD FORT YARMOUTH.—Yarmouth, N. S., has added \$4,500 to the endowment fund of the St. Lawrence institutions. Let other places do their duty and the ball will soon reach \$100,000. Keep the ball rolling on till then.—John Telegraph.

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