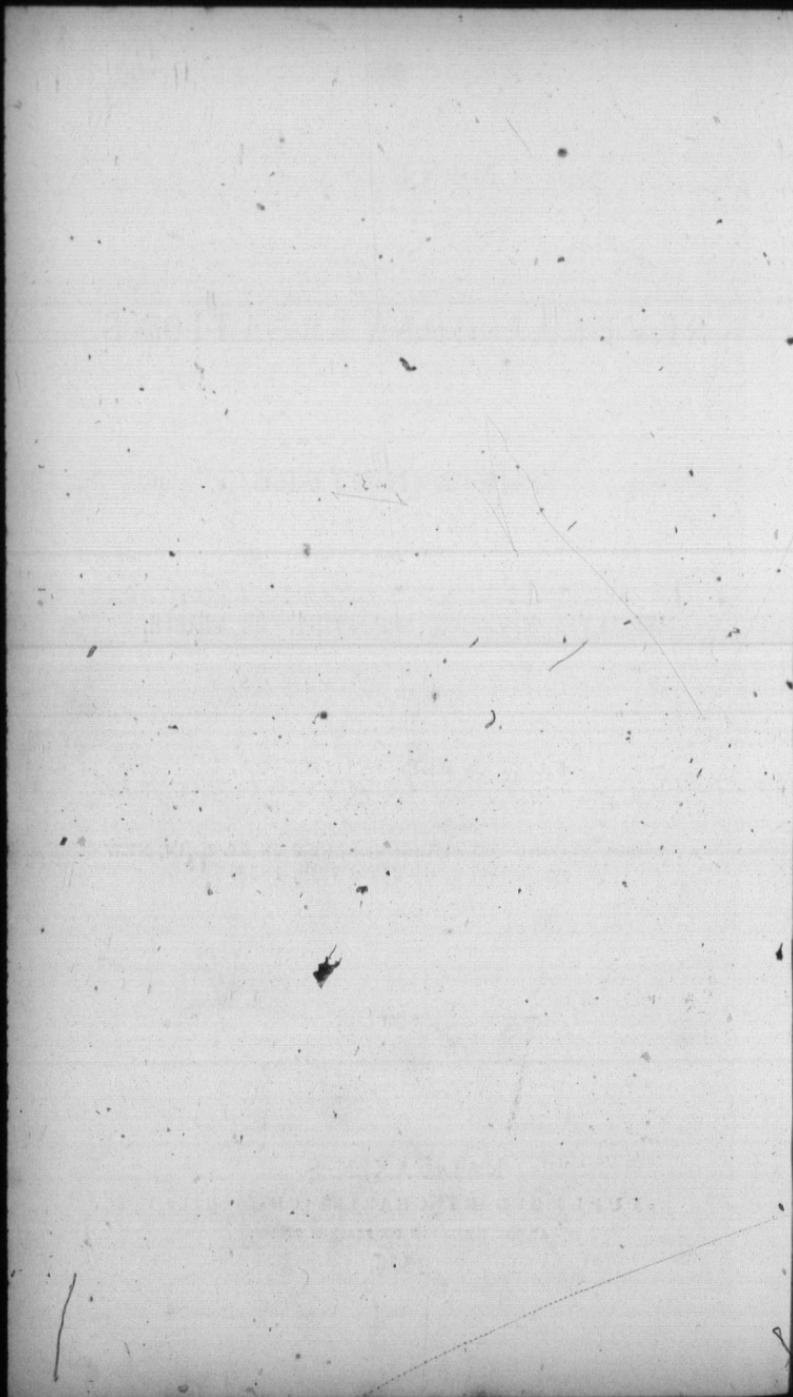


MINUTES
OF
SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS
BETWEEN
THE MINISTERS
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNEXION, OR CHURCH,
OF
EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA,
AT THEIR SECOND CONFERENCE, BEGUN IN ST. JOHN, NEW
BRUNSWICK, ON JUNE 18th, 1856.

HALIFAX, N. S.
PUBLISHED BY CHARLES CHURCHILL
AT THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE OFFICE.
1856.



T.

NI

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE,

TAKEN AT ST. JOHN, N. B., FROM THE EIGHTEENTH TO THE
TWENTY-NINTH OF JUNE, 1856.

REV. MATTHEW RICHEY, D. D., President.

REV. WILLIAM TEMPLE, . . . Secretary.

QUESTION I.

Who are now ADMITTED AS MINISTERS INTO FULL CON-
NEXION WITH THE CONFERENCE?

ANSWER.

Thomas Gaetz,
Alexander McL. Desbrisay,
John S. Phinney,
Paul Prestwood,
John L. Sponagle,
Charles Stewart.

QUESTION II.

What Preachers REMAIN ON TRIAL?

ANSWER.

James Burns,	Hezekiah McKeown,
Duncan D. Currie,	William McKinnon,
Robert Duncan,	George B. Payson.
Charles Gaskin,	Robert Tweedy.
Joseph Hart,	

These have travelled THREE years.

Samuel Avery,	George S. Milligan, A. M.,
Thomas Harris,	Thomas B. Smith.

These have travelled Two years.

Charles Comben,	John Lathern,
James Dove,	James Tweedy.

These have travelled ONE year,

QUESTION III.

What preachers are now RECEIVED ON TRIAL?

ANSWER.

William Alcorn,	Alexander W. Nicolson,
George Butcher,	William Perkins,
John Cassedy,	Stephen T. Teed,
Thomas Fox.	

QUESTION IV.

Are there any objections to any of our Ministers or Preachers on trial?

ANSWER.

They were examined one by one.

QUESTION V.

How are our Ministers and Preachers on trial STATIONED for the ensuing year?

I.—HALIFAX DISTRICT.

1. *Halifax North*, Charles Churchill, who is our Book Steward, Samuel Avery; William Bennett, Henry Pope, Supernumeraries.
2. *Halifax South*, James England.
3. *Musquodoboit*, Charles Gaskin.
4. *Dartmouth*, One to be sent.
5. *Margaret's Bay*, George B. Payson.
6. *Lunenburg*, Joseph F. Bent.
7. *Petite Riviere*, Henry Pope, jr.
8. *Mills Village*, Frederick W. Moore.
9. *Liverpool*, Ingham Sutcliffe, Thomas Harris.
10. *Windsor*, Roland Morton, (one wanted), Willfam Crosscombe, Supernumerary.
11. *Newport*, Arthur McNutt.
12. *Mailand*, William Tweedy.
13. *Bermuda*, William T. Cardy, Robert Duncan; James Hortie, Supernumerary.

ARTHUR MCNUTT, Chairman of the District.
ROLAND MORTON, Financial Secretary.

II.—THE ST. JOHN, N. B., DISTRICT.

14. *St John, South*, Edmund Botterell, Thomas M. Albrighton, Charles Stewart.
15. *St. John, North*, John Snowball.

16. *St. John, West*, Richard Knight, D. D.; John Allison, Supernumerary.

17. *St. Andrew's*, George Johnston.

18. *St. Stephen's*, John B. Brownell.

19. *St. David's*, Jeremiah Jost.

20. *Mill Town*, William Smithson.

21. *Sussex Vale*, William Allen, James Burns.

22. *Greenwich*, Duncan D. Currie.

23. *Upham*, William Alcorn.

RICHARD KNIGHT, D. D., Chairman of the District.

EDMUND BOTTERELL, Financial Secretary.

IV.—THE CHARLOTTETOWN DISTRICT.

24. *Charlottetown*, John McMurray, Richard Smith; John B. Strong, Albert DesBrisay, Supernumeraries.

25. *Pownal*, George S. Milligan, A. M.

26. *Bedeque*, George M. Barratt, William C. McKinnon.

27. *Truro*, Geo. O. Huestis; John Marshall, Supernumerary.

28. *River Philip and Pugwash*, Robert E. Crane.

29. *Wallace*, Robert A. Temple.

30. *River John*, Alexander B. Black.

31. *Guysboro' and Canso*, James B. Narraway, Thomas Gaetz, George Butcher, Stephen T. Teed.

32. *Sydney, Cape Breton*, Joseph H. Starr.

33. *Margaree*, Alexander W. Nicolson.

JOHN McMURRAY, Chairman of the District.

JOSEPH H. STARR, Financial Secretary.

IV.—THE FREDERICTON DISTRICT.

34. *Fredericton*, John Brewster, John Lathern.

35. *Sheffield*, Henry Daniel.

36. *Woodstock*, John Prince, John Cassedy.

37. *Andover*, To be supplied.

38. *Nashwaak*, William Perkins.

39. *Burton*, Hezekiah McKeown.

40. *Miramichi*, William Smith.

41. *Bathurst*, Wesley C. Beales.

42. *Dalhousie*, James Tweedy.

WILLIAM SMITH, Chairman of the District.

JOHN PRINCE, Financial Secretary.

V.—THE SACKVILLE DISTRICT.

43. *Sackville*, William Temple.

MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTION.

Principal, Humphrey Pickard, A. M.

Governor and Chaplain, Ephraim Evans, D. D.

44. *Point de Bute*, Thomas H. Davies.
 45. *Moncton*, Alexander McL. DesBrisay, Robert Tweedy.
 46. *Hopewell*, Richard Weddall.
 47. *Richibucto*, Thomas B. Smith.
 48. *Amherst*, William McCarty.
 49. *Parrsborough*, James Buckley.

EPHRAIM EVANS, D. D., Chairman of the District.
 WILLIAM McCARTY, Financial Secretary.

VI.—THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT.

50. *Annapolis*, Frederick Smallwood.
 51. *Bridgetown*, William Wilson; Richard Williams, George Miller, Supernumeraries.
 52. *Aylesford*, Thomas Angwin.
 53. *Horton*, James G. Hennigar.
 54. *Cornwallis*, James Taylor, (one to be sent.)
 55. *Digby and Sissiboo*, George M. Tuttle.
 56. *Yarmouth*, Michael Pickles, Charles De Wolfe, A. M.
 57. *Barrington*, Christopher Lockhart.
 58. *Shelburne*, John L. Sponagle.

MICHAEL PICKLES, Chairman of the District.
 JAMES TAYLOR, Financial Secretary.

VII.—THE NEWFOUNDLAND DISTRICT.

59. *St. John's*, Robert A. Chesley, James Dove.
 60. *Harbor Grace*, John S. Phinney.
 61. *Carbonear*, William E. Shenstone.
 62. *Brigus*, Samuel W. Sprague.
 63. *Port de Grave*, Adam Nightingale.
 64. *Blackhead*, John S. Addy.
 65. *Island Cove*, } Charles Comben.
 66. *Perlican*, }
 67. *Hants Harbor*.
 68. *Trinity*, Vacant.
 69. *Bona Vista*, Thomas Smith.
 70. *Green Bay*, Paul Prestwood.
 71. *Burin*, Elias Brettle.
 72. *Grand Bank*, John S. Peach.
 73. *Western Shore*, One to be sent.

SAMUEL W. SPRAGUE, Chairman of the District.
 JOHN S. PEACH, Financial Secretary.

V
A
Halit
Halit
Musc
Marg
Lune
Pet t
Mills
Liver
Wind
Newp
Maitl
Berm
Total

St Jo
St. Jo
St. Jo
St. Al
St. St
Mill T
Susse
Green
Uphan
Total

CHL
Charlo
Powna
Bedequ
Truro,
River I
Wallac
River J
Guysbo
Sydney
Total i

FE
Frederi
Sheffel
Woodst
Andove
Nashwa
Burton
Miramic
Bathurs

QUESTION VI.

What is the NUMBER OF MEMBERS in our Societies?

ANSWER.

As follows, viz.:

HALIFAX DISTRICT.	
Halifax, N.	188
Halifax, S.	175
Musquodoboit	82
Margaret's Bay	71
Lunenburg	246
Pet te Riviere	154
Mills Village	69
Liverpool	251
Windsor	107
Newport	371
Maitland	148
Bermuda	367
Total in Halifax District	2,233
On trial,	175
ST. JOHN DISTRICT.	
St John, S.	683
St. John, N.	110
St. John, W.	140
St. Andrew's,	46
St. Stephen's,	171
Mill Town,	100
Sussex Vale,	410
Greenwich,	175
Upham,	76
Total in St. John District,	1,911
On trial,	105
CHARLOTTETOWN DISTRICT.	
Charlottetown,	482
Pownal,	116
Bedeque,	290
Truro,	126
River Philip, &c,	191
Wallace,	451
River John,	84
Guysboro', &c.,	348
Sydney, C. B.,	130
Total in Charlottetown Dis't.	2,218
FREDERICTON DISTRICT.	
Fredericton	238
Sheffield	60
Woodstock	275
Andover	54
Nashwaak	109
Burton	66
Miramichi	107
Bathurst	96

Dalhousie	56
Total in Fredericton District	1,061
On trial,	47
SACKVILLE DISTRICT.	
Sackville	169
Point de Bute	261
Moncton	163
Hopewell	184
Richibucto	86
Amherst	250
Parsborough	181
Total in Sackville District,	1,294
On trial,	16
ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT.	
Annapolis,	176
Bridge'own,	166
Aylesford,	241
Cornwallis,	238
Horton,	143
Digby, &c,	130
Yarmouth	109
Barrington	238
Shelburne	140
Total in Annapolis District	1,581
On trial,	214
NEWFOUNDLAND DISTRICT.	
St. John's	268
Harbor Grace	47
Carbonear	418
Brigus	121
Port de Grave	89
Blackhead	510
Island Cove and Perlican	145
Hants Harbor	118
Trinity	20
Bona Vista	340
Green Bay	240
Burin	150
Grand Bank	100
Total in Newfoundland Di.'t.	2,557
On trial,	108
Total within the bounds of the Conference,	12,855
Total last year	13,186
With 665 on trial.	
Decrease	281

dy.

borge

CHILDREN'S FUND.

QUESTION VII.

What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Children's Fund?

ANSWERS.

1. That every district shall be considered to be responsible for providing within itself, and by its own local resources the usual quarterly allowances for such a number of minister's children as shall be found, on annual examination and calculation, to be fairly chargeable on the circuits belonging to that district, according to the principle of proportion to the numbers in society.
2. That when the number of children's allowances to be provided for in each district collectively, has been ascertained, those allowances shall be annually divided among the several circuits of that district, and every circuit shall be responsible for the sum so allotted to it, as its equitable share of this part of the general expenditure of our connexion, and shall be expected to furnish the sum by quarterly instalments, either out of its own regular income, or, if necessary, by means of extraordinary local exertions.
3. That the circuit stewards of every circuit shall be expected to pay the regular allowances for children by quarterly instalments, as usual to those ministers stationed for the time being on their circuits, who are entitled to receive such allowances, according to our existing rules. If the quota of contributions to the Children's Fund charged on that circuit shall be less than the sum which they thus actually advance for the children of their own minister, they shall be entitled to receive the deficiency back again, through the District Treasurer, out of the Children's Fund. But if the quota charged on that Circuit shall be more than is needed for payment of the children of their own ministers, they shall immediately after every quarterly meeting remit the balance to the District Treasurer.
4. The Secretary of the Fund shall at each Conference ascertain the number of members who will be chargeable with the maintenance of one child, and shall report to the Conference the number of children which, by an equal distribution according to the number of members, will be chargeable upon each district.
5. The Financial District Meeting shall divide the whole number thus allotted to the district among the circuits within its bounds, on the general basis of a *pro rata* scale, according to the number of members in society in the circuits respectively.
6. It being ascertained on comparing the number of children with the number of members in society in this connexion,

that
one c
ing t
sever
Fina
ing to

6.
ard, A
the R
for the

Wh:

From
Halifax
Halifax
Musque
Mar. are
Lunenb
Petite R
Mills V
Liverpo
Windso
Newpor
Maitlan
Bermudi

St. John
St. John
St. John
St. Andr
St. Ste: h
Mill Tow
Sussex V
Greenwi
Upham

that sixty-eight members will have to provide the allowance for one child, the following statement has been drawn up, determining the number of children's allowances to be provided by the several districts in the year 1856-7, and to be allotted at the Financial District Meetings to the circuits respectively, according to rule:

Districts.	No. of Children	No. of Members.
Halifax	34	2,233
St. John	29	1,911
Charlottetown	33½	2,218
Fredericton	16	1,061
Sackville	19½	1,294
Annapolis	24	1,581
Newfoundland	39	2,557
	195	12,855

6. Charles F. Allison, Esq., and the Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M., are requested to act as Treasurers of this fund, and the Rev. William Temple is appointed the General Secretary for the ensuing year.

CONTINGENT FUND.

QUESTION VIII.

What amount has been collected for the Contingent Fund ?

ANSWER.

From		From	
Halifax, North	£42 16 3	Charlottetown	10 3 5
Halifax, South	31 3 1½	Pownat	0 8 6
Musquodoboit	1 0 0	Bedouque	1 12 0
Mar.aret's Bay,	0 8 9	Truro	1 3 0
Lunenburg,	2 3 9	River Philip	1 14 6
Petite Riviere,	0 8 9	Wallace	1 12 6
Mills Village,	0 4 0	River John	1 6 0
Liverpool,	2 9 6	Guy-boro', &c.	2 5 0
Windsor,	1 5 0	Sydney, C. B.	0 12 0
Newport,	8 15 5		£21 6 11
Maitland	0 7 3		
Bermuda			
	£91 1 9½	Fredericton	11 4 4
		Sheffield	1 5 7
		Woodstock	2 9 3
		Adouar	
St. John, South	£26 4 9	Nashwaak	1 0 2
St. John, North	4 0 0	Burton	0 12 6
St. John, West,	3 16 0	Miramichi	0 16 6
St. Andrew's,	2 12 10½	Bathurst	0 14 0
St. Stephen's & St David's	1 17 4	Dalhousie	0 8 0
Mill Town	1 12 2		£18 10 6
Sussex Vale	2 5 0		
Greenwich	0 11 7	Sackville	7 1 6
Upham	0 12 3	Point de Bute	2 12 5½
	£43 11 1½	Moncton	3 2 7

From		From	
Hopewell	£2 0 0½	St. John, N. F.	£18 4 4
Rich bucto	3 5 4½	Harbor Grace	2 9 2
Amherst	2 10 0	Carbonear	5 15 6
Farrsborough	3 0 1	Brigus	3 0 0
	<hr/>	Port de Grave	
	£23 12 0½	Blackhead	1 10 4
		Island Cove and } Perlican } Trinity	
Annapolis	2 7 9	Hants Harbor	
Bridgetown	2 11 2½	Bona Vista	1 10 0
Aylesford	1 10 6½	Green Bay	
Cornwallis		Burin	4 0 7
Horton	2 3 5	Grand Bank	3 0 0
Digby, &c.	2 0 7		
Yarmouth	1 19 2		
Barrington	5 0 9		
Shelburne	1 0 7½		
	<hr/>		
	£18 14 0½	Total	£255 7 2

QUESTION IX.

How has this sum been appropriated?

ANSWER.

To sundry special grants on account of affliction,	£40 10 0
To do. do. miscellaneous,	14 12 0
To do. do. deficiencies on circuit,	200 5 2
	<hr/>
	£255 7 2

QUESTION X.

What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting the Contingent Fund?

ANSWERS.

1. The Conference, convinced that an efficient Contingent Fund is indispensably necessary to assist the poorer circuits in meeting their expenditure, unanimously resolve,

That an annual collection shall be made in all our congregations in the month of August;

That the yearly collection shall be made in all the classes in the March quarter; and

That private subscriptions shall be solicited from our friends in aid of the object.

2. That the funds raised from these sources shall be administered by a committee consisting of the President, or in his absence the co-delegate, the Secretary of the Conference—nine other ministers and nine lay gentlemen. The Treasurers and Secretaries of the Children's Fund, are members of the Committee *ex officio*.

John H. Anderson, Esq., and Rev. Frederick Smallwood, are requested to accept the office of Treasurer, and the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D. D., is appointed Secretary.

Incl
Presid
Charle
M., and
of the

with the
Circuit
from th
namely,
Newfou

3. T
first liqu
of minis
met by
special
District

Never
circuit i
such res
minister

N. B.
son, Esq
the lay r

"Whe
the lay l
self-susta
merly in
the mini
mended
that the
twenty sl
five shill
amounts
Committe
the famil
they furt
mitted to

Including these, the Committee for the next year are the President, or Co-Delegate, the Secretary of the Conference, Charles F. Allison, Esq., and the Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M., and the Rev. William Temple, as Treasurers and Secretary of the Childrens' Fund;

Revs. Richard Knight, D. D.,
William Wilson,
Thomas H. Davies,
William Smithson,
John B. Brownell,
Arthur McNutt,
Thomas Angwin,
John McMurray,
Charles Churchill,

with *two* gentlemen, members of our Church to be chosen by the Circuit Stewards at the May meeting of St. John District, *two* from the Halifax, and *one* each from the following Districts, namely, Fredericton, Charlottetown, Sackville, Annapolis and Newfoundland.

3. That in the future appropriations of this fund the claims first liquidated shall invariably be for the expense of removals of ministers from circuit to circuit, where such claims cannot be met by the circuits respectively; and then for such cases of special affliction as shall be recommended by the respective District Committees, and approved by this Committee.

Nevertheless in all cases where a minister is appointed to a circuit in compliance with a circuit petition, the expenses of such removal shall be defrayed by the circuit to which such minister is sent.

N. B. The following resolution, moved by John H. Anderson, Esq., and seconded by John Thomas, Esq., and passed by the lay members of the Committee, is printed by authority:

"Whereas, during the investigation of the circuit account, the lay brethren have been gratified to find that in some of the self-sustaining circuits an advance has been made on the formerly inadequate amount allowed for board for the families of the ministers; it is hereby earnestly and respectfully recommended to the quarterly meetings throughout the Conference that the amount for board allowed in future should be placed at twenty shillings per week on country circuits, and at twenty-five shillings per week, in the town and city circuits. These amounts being, in the judgment of the lay members of this Committee, barely sufficient for the comfortable maintenance of the families of those 'who break to us the bread of life.' And they further recommend that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the quarterly meeting of each circuit."

£18 4 4
2 9 2
5 15 6
3 0 0
1 10 4

1 10 0

4 0 7

3 0 0

£39 9 11

155 7 2

10 10 0

14 12 0

10 5 2

15 7 2

cing the

ntingent
recuits in

ongrega-

lasses in

r friends

e admin-
r in his
ce—nine
rers and
he Com-

rood, are
he Rev.

THE SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS' AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

QUESTION XI.

What amount has been collected for the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund?

ANSWER.

In Halifax District	£52	7	11
St. John, N. B., District	27	4	4
Charlottetown District	12	18	4
Fredericton District			
Sackville District	8	0	2
Annapolis District	14	17	6
Newfoundland District	26	16	2
	<hr/>		
	£142	4	5

QUESTION XII.

What does the Conference resolve respecting the Supernumerary Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund?

ANSWERS.

1. That a yearly collection be made in all our classes in aid of this fund at the September Quarterly Visitation.
2. That application be made to our friends on each circuit for subscriptions and donations in aid of this fund.
3. That a public collection for the same purpose be made in all our preaching places some time in the month of December.
4. The following persons are appointed the Committee

Revs. Humphrey Pickard, A. M.,
 Frederick Smallwood,
 Michael Pickles,
 Charles Churchill,
 Roland Morton,
 George H. Starr, of Halifax, Esq.
 Nicholas Mosher, of Newport, Esq.
 John Humphrey, of Moncton, Esq.

Gilbert T. Ray, Esq., and Rev. Richard Knight, D. D., are requested to accept the office of Treasurers. The Rev. Edmund Botterell is appointed Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR MINISTERS' CHILDREN.

QUESTION XIII.

What moneys have been raised in aid of the Educational Fund for Ministers' Children?

Wh
 cation

1.
 subscri
 and th
 from
 orized

2.
 chape
 for thi

3.
 ser, of
 of this
 tary.

Wh
 Book

1.
 ence, c
 Preside
 the Bo
 ference

2. I
 a full a
 be laid

ANSWER.

Districts.	Subs. of Ministers.	Public collection.
In Halifax	£5 0 0	£18 19 7½
St. John	4 0 0	7 15 9
Charlottetown	4 0 0	6 4 4
Fredericton	2 10 0	5 17 0
Sackville	4 10 0	5 0 6
Annapolis	3 10 0	8 0 7
Newfoundland	5 0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£28 10 0	£51 17 9½

QUESTION XIV.

What are the resolutions of Conference respecting the Educational Fund for Ministers' Children?

ANSWERS.

1. That every minister in full connexion shall pay an annual subscription, to be, for the present, ten shillings, into this fund; and that private subscriptions and donations are to be solicited from our more opulent friends, to whom the ministers are authorized to make application.

2. That a public collection shall be made annually in all our chapels and Sabbath preaching places in the month of April, for this fund.

3. The Rev. James G. Hennigar, of Horton, and John Fraser, of St. John. N. B., Esq., are requested to act as Treasurers of this Fund. The Rev. George Johnson is appointed Secretary.

BOOK AFFAIRS.

QUESTION XV.

What are the directions of the Conference respecting our Book Affairs?

ANSWERS.

1. A Committee shall be appointed annually by the Conference, consisting of twelve ministers; in addition to which the President, the Co-delegate, the Secretary of the Conference, the Book Steward, and the Editor, when a member of the Conference, shall be members *ex officio*.

2. Prior to the annual meeting of Conference in every year, a full and particular statement of the accounts of the office shall be laid before the committee.

3. The committee for the present year shall consist of the following persons, viz. :

Revs. Richard Knight, D. D.,	who shall be Chairman.
Charles Churchill,	who shall be Secretary.
Thomas H. Davies,	Revs. John McMurray,
Ephraim Evans, D. D.,	Edmund Botterell,
James England,	Frederick Smallwood,
James G. Hennigar,	Humphrey Pickard, A. M.,
Arthur McNutt,	Robert A. Chesley,
Roland Morton.	

MOUNT ALLISON ACADEMY.

QUESTION XVI.

What are the resolutions of Conference in reference to the Wesleyan Academy, Mount Allison, Sackville ?

ANSWERS.

1. That the Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Mount Allison Academy, and the valuable Reports of the Principal, the Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M., and of the Governor and Chaplain, the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D. D., as also that of the Treasurer, C. F. Allison, Esq., being highly satisfactory, are cordially approved of by the Conference.

2. That the thanks of the Conference be most respectfully presented to the Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M., for his untiring and successful devotion to his onerous duties as Principal of Mount Allison Academy during the past year.

3. That the thanks of the Conference be most respectfully presented to the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D. D., for his diligent, faithful and efficient services as Chaplain and Governor of Mount Allison Academy during the past year.

4. That the Conference having carefully attended to the entirely satisfactory reports of the financial, literary and religious state of both branches of Mount Allison Academy, cannot withhold the expression of its high appreciation of the valuable services of the Rev. H. Pickard, A. M., the Principal, the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D. D., the Governor and Chaplain; Miss Adams, the chief Preceptress; and all the other teachers, both male and female: and rejoices that it can fully commend the Mount Allison Academy to the unabated confidence of the heads of families, and all friends of Christian education; and would respectfully urge on the members of our Church and congregations especially, the duty and advantage of seeking for their sons

and daughters the sound, complete, and Christian education which the Academy at Sackville is prepared in all respects to afford.

Recently there has been vouchsafed a gracious influence, affecting many of the students in both branches of the Institution, resulting in unquestionable evidences of a work of grace upon their hearts. For these manifestations of mercy and power, we offer humble and fervent acknowledgments to God, and pray that yet larger blessings may be conferred.

5. The Conference would also express its grateful appreciation of the excellent management of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, and especially of the ceaseless assiduity of the excellent Treasurer, Charles F. Allison, Esq., and record its great gratification because of the healthy and prosperous financial condition of the Institution.

6. The following esteemed friends are requested to act as a Committee of Visitors for the ensuing year, to attend the examinatory and anniversary exercises; and to notice generally the state of the Institution in all its departments, and to present their views both to the Trustees, and to the Conference, viz.:

Revs. Thomas H. Davies,	William K. Dudman, Esq.,
Charles Churchill,	Joseph Salter, Esq.,
Matthew H. Richey, Esq.,	Nathan Tupper, Esq.,
Ralph Brecken, Esq.,	Hon. Judge Wilmot,
Hon. James J. Rogerson.	

7. The following persons are appointed Trustees for the ensuing year, viz.:

The Rev. the President of Conference, or, in his absence, the Co-delegate; the Secretary of the Conference; the Principal of the Academy; the Governor and Chaplain;

Revs. Richard Knight, D. D.,	John H. Anderson, Esq.,
Arthur McNutt,	Gilbert T. Ray, Esq.,
James G. Hennigar,	George H. Starr, Esq.,
John McMurray,	Mariner Wood, Esq.,
Charles F. Allison, Esq.,	Hon. Charles Young,
Hon. Stephen Fulton.	

MISSIONARY AFFAIRS.

QUESTION XVIII.

What have been the sums raised for the Missionary Society in each district?

ANSWER.

District.	Gross.	Expenses.	Nett.
1. Halifax,	£732 1 2	£13 15 7	£718 5 7½
2. St. John,	348 15 7	16 10 5	332 5 2
3. Charlottet'n,	566 16 3	6 3 7	560 12 8
4. Fredericton,	172 2 11½	12 18 0	159 4 11
5. Sackville,	308 12 11	6 4 4	302 8 7
6. Annapolis,	308 0 0	8 0 0	300 0 0
7. Newfoundl'd,	384 15 7	18 15 7	366 0 0
	£2,821 4 6	£72 7 6	£2,738 17 6

QUESTION XVIII.

What are the resolutions of the Conference on the subject of forming a General Missionary Society auxiliary to our Parent Missionary Society?

ANSWERS.

1. That the Missionary Societies known as Wesleyan in these Provinces be formed into one general association, designated, "The Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Eastern British America, auxiliary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

2. That every person contributing annually the sum of twenty shillings and upwards, and every benefactor of five pounds and upwards, shall be members of this society, and entitled to the General Annual Report."

3. That the names of subscribers of five shillings and upwards shall be published in the Society's Report, and that subscribers of ten shillings and upwards, and subscribers in families of twenty shillings, with collectors for the Society, shall be entitled to the Conference Annual Report.

4. That the President of the Conference, or, in his absence, the Co-delegate, the Secretary of the Conference, and the Chairmen of Districts shall be members, *ex officio*, of the Managing Committee, with three other ministers and ten lay gentlemen, to be chosen by the Society at its annual meeting.

5. That the annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first evening of the Conference; when the accounts shall be submitted for approval, and the elective members of the Committee shall be chosen.

6. The following are the Committee for the ensuing year :

The President, or, in his absence, the Co-delegate,
The Secretary of the Conference,

Revs. Richard Knight, D. D.,	Revs. Arthur McNutt,
William Smith,	Samuel Sprague,
Michael Pickles,	James G. Hennigar,
Ephraim Evans, D. D.,	Roland Morton,
John McMurray,	Frederick Smallwood.

Martin G. Black, Esq.,	John H. Anderson, Esq.,
George H. Starr, Esq.,	Robert Salter, Esq.,
Gilbert T. Ray, Esq.,	Charles F. Allison, Esq.,
Ralph Brecken, Esq.,	N. Moses, Esq.,
Hon. Judge Wilmot,	Hon. J. J. Rogerson.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

1. *The Provincial Wesleyan.*—The Conference records with pleasure its high appreciation of the very creditable manner in which the Provincial Wesleyan has hitherto been conducted, and especially during the past year. Its well selected articles of religious intelligence, the Conference is persuaded, have rendered that paper more popular, and more useful; and therefore commend the publication to the patronage of our friends, as a valuable means of communicating the most important and interesting instruction to their families.

2. *Respecting the late President,* the Rev. John Beecham, D. D.

The Conference reflecting upon the irreparable loss which it has sustained in the death of its President, the Rev. Dr. Beecham, and desiring to do reverence to departed worth, determines to place upon its official record some expression, which must, however, be but imperfect, of its estimate of his character and services, and of its chastened grief under the afflictive bereavement to which by his demise it has been subjected; and therefore resolves:

(1.) That it cherishes the recollection of the great services which through a long, a laborious and a spotless ministerial life were rendered by Dr. Beecham to the cause of Christianity throughout the world, with gratitude to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift," who endowed his faithful servant with deep penetration, wise discrimination, a far-seeing sagacity, indomitable energy, and a rare power of persistent application combined with transparent frankness and Christian meekness, which secured for him high and deserved admiration.

(2.) That it regards the noble Missionary Institution, of which at the time of his decease he was Senior Secretary, as largely indebted, under Providence, for its widely-extended success, to the eminent administrative ability which he brought to its management for many years; and which, though often noiselessly put forth, was efficient in a very high degree, and productive of noble results.

(3.) That it gratefully acknowledges the very great obligations it owes to this distinguished divine, who sat at our formation into a connexion, affiliated to our beloved parent Church, as its first President, and who bringing to his task as he did, the matured judgment, and the ripened experience of a deeply penetrating and statesmanlike mind, and the urbanity of a true Christian gentleman, proved himself so admirably qualified to direct in laying broad and deep the foundations of an ecclesiastical organization which promises to perform a glorious part in the evangelization of this continent and the world.

(4.) That while poignantly conscious of its loss in the death of Dr. Beecham, it yet bows in lowly, unquestioning adoration and submission at the feet of the chief Bishop of the Church; and rejoices to learn that his life, ennobled by the loftiest Christian virtues, was closed by a death of cloudless, triumphant joy, the thrilling presage of the sublime consummation which awaited him in the realms of bliss.

3. *The Deputation from the Canada Conference.*—Resolved unanimously, That the Conference records the profound satisfaction and delight with which it welcomes the safe arrival through the blessing of God, of the esteemed brethren who have been deputed as the representatives of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada; that the Conference has listened with deep and lively interest to the fraternal addresses of these brethren exhibiting the encouraging progress of the work of God in the sister colony; and respectfully and affectionately invites, and will gladly avail itself of any suggestions or counsels which they may be disposed to offer during our deliberations.

4. *Deputation to the Canada Conference.*—The Revs. Richard Knight, D. D., Humphrey Pickard, A. M., and Ephraim Evans, D. D.

5. *Thanks to the Co-delegate, the Secretary, etc.*—Resolved, unanimously, (1.) That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Co-delegate, the Rev. Dr. Richey, for the faithful and eminently able manner in which the arduous duties of his office have been performed, and for the kindness and

pro
bee
{
to
ser
(
to
to
enc
(
sen
wit
enc
Pre
cop
6
ing.
urg
end
Me
may
son:
of
TIM
In
1
1
The
1.
toril
othe
ary,
copi

promptitude with which important connexional services have been rendered by him on various occasions during the year.

(2.) That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. William Temple for his efficient and highly-esteemed services as the Secretary of the Conference.

(3.) That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M., the Journal Secretary, and to the Rev. Roland Morton, the assistant Secretary of Conference, for their highly acceptable and useful services.

(4.) That the respectful thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. Richard Knight, D. D., for the promptitude with which he kindly consented, on the request of the Conference to preach before them on the lamented decease of our late President, Dr. Beecham; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of his discourse for publication in the Provincial Wesleyan.

6. *Quarterly Meetings to be rendered more religiously interesting.* Resolved, unanimously, That the Conference earnestly urges upon the Superintendents of Circuits the importance of endeavoring to give additional interest to the Circuit Quarterly Meetings, by connecting with them such religious services as may tend, by the blessing of God, to the promotion of the personal piety of the official members, and the continuous revival of the work of God throughout our circuits.

TIME FOR COLLECTIONS IN AID OF THE CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

- In August, . . . Public Collection for the Contingent Fund.
 September, . . . Collection in the Classes for Supernumeraries' and Ministers' Widows' Fund.
 December, . . . Public Collection for same Fund.
 March, . . . Yearly Collection in the Classes for the Contingent Fund.
 April, . . . Public Collection for the Educational Fund for Ministers' Children.
 May, . . . The Conference Collection.

The Public Collections are to be made in all our Sabbath preaching places.

STANDING ORDERS.

1. *District Minutes.*—The Chairmen of Districts are peremptorily required to procure *three* copies of the several annual and other meetings of the District Committees, financial and ordinary, duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary. One of these copies shall be inserted in the District Records; a second shall

be reserved for the use of the Conference; and a third shall be delivered to the Sub-Secretary for preservation in the archives of the connexion. Furthermore, it is required that the last mentioned copies shall be handed in on the forenoon of the day on which our first preparatory committee meeting may be appointed to be held, that the Secretaries may prepare classified lists of all matters which are to come before the Conference, and thereby expedite business.

2. *Stationing of Ministers.*—After the present Conference no minister shall be stationed on the same circuit more than three years in succession.

3. *Conference Collection.*—The usual Conference collection shall be made in all our Sabbath preaching places, and brought to the Conference.

QUESTION XIX.

When and where shall our next Conference be held ?

ANSWER.

On the fourth Wednesday in June, 1857, at Sackville, Westmoreland.

Signed on behalf, and by order, of the Conference,

MATTHEW RICHEY, D. D., President.

WILLIAM TEMPLE, Secretary

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 28th, 1856.

DEA

F

God

Son,

us,"

impl

of th

"acc

At

with

flock

"to

we c

into

to "

man.

pres

biliti

ardu

able

susta

amid

our

His

tiona

savor

Th

been

dark

PASTORAL ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST
CHURCH IN EASTERN BRITISH AMERICA.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:

FROM our annual assembly, as your pastors in the Church of God, and as "fellow workers" in "the kingdom of His dear Son," we greet you, who have "obtained like precious faith with us," in the name of our common Lord; and we devoutly implore our Heavenly Father to supply your every need, out of that fulness from which already we have all received, even "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

At such seasons as the present, we feel peculiarly impressed with the solemnity of the charge we have received, to "feed the flock of God which he hath purchased with His own blood," and "to watch for your souls, as they that must give account." But we can appeal to Him who "hath counted us faithful, putting us into the ministry," as our witness, that it is our highest ambition to "save ourselves and them that hear us," "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Under responsibilities so overwhelming, and in the performance of duties so arduous, nothing less than the abiding presence, and the seasonable and sufficient, blessing of the "Chief Shepherd," could sustain us. Yet, "thanks be to God," during another year, and amidst more than usual effort and care for the introduction of our new ecclesiastical arrangements, we have been "kept by His power through faith unto salvation," and have had additional cause to "triumph in Christ, who maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place."

The time which has elapsed since our last Conference has been filled up with events of thrilling interest. Just then the dark cloud of Divine wrath seemed to impend over Christen-

dom. Amidst "wars and commotions, distress of nations and perplexity," in not a few instances "men's hearts were failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which were coming on the earth." Our own national sin, long-continued and tremendously aggravated, had evidently provoked national punishment, so that no human sagacity could foresee the end. Nevertheless, God was our "refuge and strength," and as of old we found Him to be "a very present help in trouble." "He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth," and in tender compassion He hath "ordained peace for us." Even in this matter He hath caused the wrath of man to praise Him, for our chastisements and the judgments which He hath executed on other nations, have opened up channels of salvation for the fallen churches of Europe, and for the infidel tribes of Asia. "Bless ye God in the congregations, even the Lord from the fountain of Israel. Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God. Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord."

Though remote from the scene of hostilities, the surge of affliction has rolled over our shores, and all classes of the community have suffered more or less on its account. We are well aware that the long-continued depression of commerce on the one hand, and the high rate which has obtained for the necessities of life on the other, have brought some of you into circumstances of poverty, and have involved many more in unwonted straits and anxieties. As "being ourselves in the body," we have deeply sympathized with you. The trials and griefs which you experience, we willingly share, "filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ, for his body's sake, which is the Church." Yet we hope that a happier era has already dawned upon us, and that the time is not far distant when there shall be "no complaining in our streets."

Meantime, our wisdom is to concern ourselves more about the sanctification of our trials, than their removal. "Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." Be assured, dear brethren, that no worse calamity can befall any people than the being hardened under the outstretched arm of the Almighty. The sure mark and the worst reproach of a reprobate nation is, "The people turneth not to Him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the Lord of Hosts."

"But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak." And as you have been accustomed to hear us explain and enforce the Divine testimony in our personal ministry, so now we

believe
us the

We
the imp
this is
thing
yourself
of the
kingdo
make y
abound
just, a
formali
very e
times"
the wor
times, a
of grac
with e
the po
practic
now, ar
God un
fast in
and to
with si
"Only
Christ;
rebuke.
whom ;

"Ha
suprem
the ten
ing of
hands c
to the v
you "a
your pr
you wil
But let
ance wi
and app
security
come, it
can no
saying"
came in

believe that in our collective capacity you will "suffer from us the word of exhortation."

We affectionately press upon your consideration, first of all, the importance of personal religion. Negligence in regard to this is always inexcusable; nor is it possible to substitute anything else as acceptable devotion. "Look well, therefore, to yourselves;" and, whether enticed by the pleasures and honors of the world, or surrounded with its difficulties, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;" "give all diligence to make your calling and election sure." On every side, iniquity abounds, scorning with defiance that law which is "holy, and just, and good;" while, under the name of Christianity, a dead formalism and a variety of heretical speculations, threaten the very existence of "pure religion and undefiled." "Perilous times" have "come;" "many false prophets have gone out into the world;" but these are the characteristic marks of the last times, and seeing we live under the most glorious dispensation of grace, it is no wonder that the enemy of souls should rage with extreme violence. Nothing can so completely neutralize the power of error and of vice, as the firm maintenance and practical exemplification of the principles of the gospel. It is now, and ever shall be, what it always has been, "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." To hold it fast in its integrity is at once to "prepare the way of the Lord," and to "lift up a standard for the people." These views enforce with singular propriety the counsel of the inspired Apostle: "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ; be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

"Have faith in God." Regard Him not only as the wise and supreme Disposer of all things, but as sustaining towards you the tender relation of Father. Unhesitatingly commit the keeping of your souls and bodies, and of all your affairs, into the hands of this "faithful Creator." And if, instead of conforming to the world, or yielding to the dictates of un sanctified reason, you "acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, He will direct your paths;" if you endure "as seeing Him who is invisible," you will find that "verily there is a reward for the righteous." But let your faith extend farther than this. A state of acceptance with God is only realized by a continued reliance upon, and appropriation of, the merits of the Redeemer's death. For security, either in the present world, or in that which is to come, for genuine peace, or for heartfelt joy, "other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, Jesus Christ." The "faithful saying" is still "worthy of all acceptance," and as Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, so should the life which we

live in the flesh be "by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us."

We desire also that you may "*abound in hope*, through the power of the Holy Ghost." However grievous may be the disappointments of those who set their affections upon earthly things, the hope of a true believer "maketh not ashamed." Whether connecting itself with the enjoyment of perfect love in the present life, or with "the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ," it will alike be conducive to our full recovery of the image of God, and productive of "strong consolation" in the time of distress. "Every man that hath this hope in Him, purifieth himself even as he is pure."

But above all, "This we pray, that your *love* may abound yet more and more, in knowledge and in all judgment." This is the distinguishing element of the new creation—the first fruit of the Spirit—and "the bond of perfectness." "Every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God; He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love." Stir up this gift which has been shed abroad in your hearts by the Holy Ghost. "Let brotherly love continue," "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." "By this shall all men know that ye are his disciples," for your conduct shall throw every other species of virtue into the shade, and set forth the divinity of its origin in the most attractive as well as the most incontrovertible manner. And let the love of Christ constrain you to a ceaseless course of the purest philanthropy. "The whole world lieth in wickedness." Cheerfully, then, exercise the strictest self-denial, and follow Christ in the regeneration, bearing his cross and reproach. Such is just the devotion which the world wants, in order to command its attention and admiration, to elevate its standard of morality, and to "make the people obedient in word and deed."

Love to the Lord Jesus should also excite *our zeal for his ordinances*, while the enjoyment of these will react upon and strengthen this principle. It will not, therefore, appear unnecessary to warn you against the "forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is," "Amiable," indeed, are "the tabernacles of God;" for "in all places where His name is recorded," He will "come unto" His "people, and will bless them." As in the temple scene of old, the shining forth of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ shall arrest the sinner, and extort the cry, "Woe is me, for I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips." Here also shall the contrite penitent receive the word of reconciliation, while the still small voice of mercy proclaims, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." And when the righteous stand in slippery places,

when
ment
tuar
undir
His
God
so h
have
and
with
see t
pled
One
only
ment
durin
in m
not l
"wa
Ghos
shoul
to u
lovec
we w
Spiri
minis
peac
right
there
coop
silenc
make
W
the
the ic
neces
are n
seals
tion
us to
expre
essen
him,
our a
ship,
enlar
grace

when they are tempted to repine by contrasting their chastisements with the prosperity of the wicked, by going into the sanctuary of the Lord, they shall obtain repeated assurances of His undiminished interest in them; that He will "guide them with His counsel, and afterward receive them into glory." Thus did God in the former times to our fathers, and "as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts." And we have no doubt, but if our faith were kept in livelier exercise, and in the breadth of its attachment were more commensurate with the wants of our race, and the promises of God, we should see the kingdom of Christ extending around us with unexampled rapidity. Are we not in danger of "limiting the Holy One of Israel," by looking for the exercise of His saving power only at set periods, and under the influence of strong excitement?—While, with devout gratitude, we have to record that, during the past year, revivals of religion have been experienced in many of our churches, yet we have to mourn that these have not been more numerous and more enduring. Among a people "walking in the fear of God, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost," and under a pointed evangelical ministry, saving results should be of daily occurrence. What we all require, in order to universal success, is an increase of Divine influence. Beloved brethren, we have renewed our pledges to Heaven that we will more unreservedly, and with greater confidence in the Spirit's power, "give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." "For Zion's sake will we not hold our peace, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." But we earnestly solicit your coöperation. "Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

We hope that throughout our churches due respect is paid to the Sacraments of Christianity. Far be it from us to attach the idea of merit to their reception, or to conceive of them as necessarily securing acceptance with God. Nevertheless, they are means of grace, appointed by infinite wisdom for our help,—seals of the new covenant, whose provisions give life and salvation to the world. The most powerful of all obligations binds us to "show forth the Lord's death till he come." It is the expressed will, the command of our dying Saviour. The very essence of "faith in his blood" is submission of ourselves to him, and the drawing back from this ordinance is to disavow our allegiance to Him. So full of meaning is this act of worship, that, when devoutly attended to, it cannot but give us enlarged views of Divine things, and promote our growth in grace. Christ is thus evidently set forth as crucified for us;

and the doctrines of repentance, of reliance upon his atonement, of the Spirit's sanctifying energy, and of a future judgment, radiate from his cross. Here then, let the weary and heavy laden, come and refresh themselves; let them learn of him who is "meek and lowly in heart, and they shall find rest to their souls."

The other Sacrament in its significance and obligation, as well as in the blessing connected with its observance, stands upon precisely the same footing. The promise of the Holy Spirit is "to our children," as surely as it is "to us," and "to all that are afar off," so that there can be no impropriety in presenting them to receive the seal of that covenant in which they are included, and the symbol of that blessing to which they are entitled. But when we recollect that the "Head of the Church," in the days of his flesh, blessed infants, and declared that "of such is the kingdom of God," that he was much displeased with those who prevented their approach, and said, "Suffer them to come to me, and forbid them not," we must conclude that it would be at once an act of injustice to them, and of interference with his prerogative, to deny them this gospel privilege. By dedicating them to the Redeemer in his own appointed way, we may be brought to feel more deeply interested in their spiritual welfare, and be led the more industriously to train them up in the way that they should go. With stronger confidence also shall we apply for those spiritual influences which are promised to our "offspring," as "water upon the thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground."

We indulge the hope that you will be characterized by the same nobility of mind, which in early times distinguished the disciples at Berea. While "with all readiness of mind" you receive the practical word, we would not have you acquire religious knowledge at second hand, but "search the Scriptures daily," whether those things are so. No discoveries can ever invalidate or supersede the word of God. Compared with the "doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness" which the inspired volume contains, the deepest researches of human knowledge are "less than nothing and vanity." The pompous schemes of human amelioration and progress which now solicit popular favor, require to be tested by the principles of revealed truth; and just in so far as they are based upon "the testimony of Jesus," ought they to share our regard. "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Nor should we only make the law and the testimony our final

appe
tion
suste
strea
"ma
proc
the l
tures
up tl
them
betw
speal
thou
rises
Pe
you
to o
plant
With
pare
piety
for
worl
thus
more
TI
consi
of o
pleas
beses
"Re
indu
circu
a da
of H
of th
cann
Lord
there
with
the
dure
W
our
with
prac
by l

appeal in cases of dispute, but by reading therein, with meditation and private prayer, we should daily derive from it spiritual sustenance. The river of life diffuses here its gladdening streams, and here may the heavenly manna be gathered, for "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The injunction given to the Israelites when they had but a small portion of the Scriptures, applies with greater force to us. "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Permit us also, beloved brethren, affectionately to remind you of the importance of family worship—a duty essential alike to order and regularity in the domestic circle, and to the implantation of religious sentiments in the hearts of the young. Without strict attention to this service, the professedly Christian parent counteracts all his other exertions for the promotion of piety in his household. Due time, therefore, should be allotted for reading and prayer, each morning and evening, and no worldly concern should be permitted to set it aside. If God be thus honored, even at the occasional expense of convenience, more will be in reality gained, than is apparently lost.

The institution of the *holy Sabbath* claims our most serious consideration and cordial support. It is one of the worst signs of our times that the sanctity of this day is so often violated by pleasure takers, and its rest broken by unnecessary labors. We beseech you to "abhor all appearance of" this "evil," and "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Many are the inducements to do so. As it respects our body and our temporal circumstances, it is peculiarly beneficial. But its obligation as a day of rest and of worship—commemorative of God's ending of His works, both of creation and redemption, and anticipative of the period when we shall rest from ours—is perpetual, and cannot by any means be set aside. "This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." "Enter," therefore, "into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."

We are happy to perceive that the objects contemplated by our recent organization into a distinct Conference, have met with your cordial approval. This has been evinced by the practical adoption of our new system, and, in many instances, by liberal contributions to our connexional funds. Having now

advanced into a somewhat matured condition, it is our duty to cultivate the principle of self-reliance; and the first care of every circuit should therefore be, to meet, as soon as possible, its own expenditure. In many of our older stations, and in other places where, though our ministry has been more recently introduced, the population has rapidly increased, we think this might be accomplished by a determined effort. And even where it could not at present be done, the resolution to approach as nearly as possible to it, and to attain it whenever practicable, would be of essential service.

At the same time, we desire specially to call your attention to the fact that we are all united by the connexional principle. By means of this and our itinerancy, the weakest and most isolated circuits partake to a very considerable extent of the same pastoral care and oversight as the larger and wealthier. By the proper operation of our financial economy, not only do the stronger assist the weaker, but the gospel finds its way into destitute localities; and these "having nourishment ministered," and being "knit together, make increase of the Church with the increase of God." This system we endeavor to carry out, not only because of its adaptation to the wants of the world at large, but because it is the scriptural plan. "Not boasting of things without our measure, that is of other men's labors; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hands."

On this ground we again commend to your notice and support our Contingent or Home Mission Fund. For aid in behalf of the poorer circuits, we cannot always be dependent on the Missionary Committee; and if "the laborer," who, according to Divine testimony, is "worthy of his hire," be deprived of it, he is either tempted to abandon the ministry, or must continue to exercise its functions with a weight of worldly troubles upon his heart. To relieve such cases—alas, too numerous—and to multiply our staff of efficient evangelists, this fund has been established. In some circuits a good beginning has been made, but in others we regret to say that it has been nearly overlooked. Help us, dear brethren, according to the ability which God hath given you. If placed in such a position as to render its aid unnecessary, then offer to God through this medium a tribute of gratitude for superior advantages; and if you are among the recipients of this bounty, show that you are nevertheless actuated by the sentiment of the Lord Jesus, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

We feel persuaded that nothing more is required to secure your support of the "Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows'

Fur
has
few
van
in c
each
is de
then
the
of h
gosp
adm
O
Fund
and
recei
of hi
his w
recei
De
soun
we ha
in the
the s
Rev.
able
famili
earne
of our
of a l
princi
streng
It a
our ed
of effi
recent
reviva
were n
so hon
in He
and we
valuab
the ble
It ha
that th
past yr
is the

Fund," than that its claims should be fully set before you. This has already been done, and a generous response has in not a few cases been made. Perhaps, however, it may not be irrelevant to say, that as our ministry is limited to a very few years in each place, and is necessarily of an exhausting character, each part of our wide extent of labor, and each individual in it, is deeply interested in the prosperity of this fund. "Remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God, whose faith follow." And as they, in the time of health and strength freely imparted to you the riches of the gospel, so is it becoming that in age and sickness you should administer to their temporal wants.

On the same ground, we might simply notice the Educational Fund. So nearly are all the wants of each minister estimated, and so nicely are his claims adjusted, that the amount which he receives is neither designed for, nor adequate to, the education of his children. The fund above named is intended to meet his wants in this respect, and afford him what he cannot possibly receive from other connexional sources.

Deeply impressed with the importance of widely diffusing a sound and scriptural literature among the people of our charge, we have established a Book-Room in Halifax, having a branch in the city of St. John, N. B., and which we have placed under the superintendence of one of our most efficient ministers, the Rev. C. CHURCHILL,—thus bringing within your reach valuable facilities for the mental and religious training of your families, not hitherto in the same degree available to you. We earnestly entreat you largely to patronize this important agency of our Church, that, amid the deluding and polluting influences of a large portion of the current literature of the age, the principles and morals of our youth may be guarded and strengthened.

It affords us unfeigned delight to be able to inform you that our educational institutions at Mount Allison are in a high state of efficiency, and are enjoying great popularity. During the recently closed term they were favored with a very blessed revival of religion, in which many students of both branches were made partakers of the saving grace of God. Institutions so honorable to our connexion, so smiled upon by "Our Father in Heaven," deserve and demand your most liberal support; and we bespeak it in their behalf, assured that among the most valuable boons you can confer upon your sons and daughters, is the blessing of a thorough and scripturally conducted education.

It has been cause of deep gratitude to us, as it will be to you, that the receipts of the Wesleyan Missionary Society for the past year, have exceeded those of any preceding year. This is the more remarkable, on account of the pressure upon our

resources, made by the late war; yet it is but another proof of God's favor for Zion, and that "upon all her glory" there is "defence." While we rejoice that the Church generally is becoming more awake to her duty in evangelizing nations, it is no less gratifying to know, that upon all the mission field the Spirit is being poured out from on high. The dry bones of the valley of vision in Europe, are quivering with life. The Turk is no longer inaccessible to the gospel, nor would his abandonment of Mohammedanism for Christianity expose him to a criminal's death. The stupendous fabric of Hindoo idolatry is shaken to its centre, and its "captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail." Even China, long impregnable to the gospel, is receiving the word of life, and among those who are falling down, making supplication, and saying, "Surely God is in thee; and there is none else," are "these from the land of Sinim!" Africa is awaking from her lethargy, asserting her right to the privileges of men and brethren, abolishing her demon worship, and by righteousness and true holiness, causing "the wilderness and solitary place to be glad," and the desert to "blossom as the rose." The islands of the sea have not in vain waited for the law of the Lord. Thousands have "cast their idols to the moles and to the bats," and have exchanged "the habitations of cruelty" for the temples of God; and the bloodthirsty cry of violence for the songs of Zion. "Sing, O ye heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." "And now what wait we for?" but that yet more copious effusion of the Spirit's power whereby that "blindness" which "in part is happened unto Israel" shall be removed, and "the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in." Such a glorious consummation is worthy of our labors, our prayers, and our efforts. And, inasmuch as we are still so far connected with the British Conference as to operate upon the heathen world through their agents, let us cheerfully sustain the missionary cause. "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

Were further considerations necessary to impress these great duties upon you, we could derive many of them from that afflicting event which has recently bereft us of our official head, and the Church of Christ of one of its distinguished ornaments and faithful ministers, the Reverend John Beecham, D. D.

Twelve months ago he was present with us, for the express purpose of arranging those plans, by which, as a connexion, we are now guided. Having for many years sustained the office of

Mis
with
to l
con
rall
crin
pati
ter,
den
ion
men
Dr.
fere
than
mor
then
said
whic
ener
chur
stanc

As I
hope
dred
and
and
were
Sata
to us.
his pi
solicit
ished.
he we
is nor
Him
comet
To
of Go
same
us dai
world
weigh
life.
shall f

Missionary Secretary, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with the history and the wants of the mission field, he was able to bring a vast amount of experience to bear upon any subject connected with that department of our work. To a mind naturally sagacious and far seeing, and a judgment sound and discriminating, he added rich stores of knowledge, acquired by patient industry; while deep personal piety crowned his character, and threw an irresistible charm around it. He was evidently the individual, who was best qualified to give our connexion in these Provinces its proper form and system of management; and at that time we said, "That in the designation of Dr. Beecham, to inaugurate the Eastern British American Conference, we clearly perceived the discrimination of man, and thankfully marked the disposal of God." In these views we are more than ever confirmed, but our pleasure in adverting to them is mingled with grief when we remember that this may be said to have been his last great effort, and that its performance, which has been of incalculable advantage to us, exhausted his energies, and perhaps hastened his dissolution. The militant church can no longer reckon upon the valuable services of this standard-bearer; but "our loss is his infinite gain."

"His spirit, numbered with the blest,
Rejoices where the weary rest."

As he lived, so he died; "steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love." He has joined the society of kindred spirits — of Wesley, and Fletcher, and Coke, and Clarke, and Watson, and Newton — and is doubtless now recognized and loved by many who, through his indefatigable exertions were turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. But his memory is, and ever will be, precious to us. Even yet we seem to hear his voice, and mark, both in his pulpit ministrations and in his legislative counsels, the tender solicitude which he cherished for Zion's weal. We are admonished that "the time is short;" and that the only duty which, if he were present, he would inculcate, and which, though absent, is none the less interesting to him, is, that we "work the works of Him that hath sent us while it is day; seeing that the night cometh, when no man can work."

To this work we solemnly dedicate ourselves, as in the sight of God; "and we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence, to the full assurance of hope unto the end." Let us daily fulfil our obligations to God, to one another, and to the world, and anticipating the "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," patiently endure the afflictions of this present life. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

"Now the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A D D R E S S

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF EASTERN
BRITISH AMERICA,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE BRITISH CONFERENCE,

TO THE CONFERENCE IN ENGLAND.

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN:

BEING very desirous that our affiliated relation to the parent Conference, begun under such happy auspices, should be perpetuated to the glory of God, and our mutual honor and satisfaction, we gladly resume the correspondence with you, which it was our happiness last year to initiate.

Alas, that we should have so soon to speak to you in the language of deep affliction and profound sorrow, occasioned by the unexpected decease of our first President, the Rev. JOHN BEECHAM, D. D. Very heavily did the tidings of his death fall upon all our hearts; not merely because of the love we bore to him, and the benefits we hoped to have derived from his enlightened and paternal interest in our affairs, but also because of his value to every part of the great Wesleyan family, and more especially to your noble missionary institution, to whose interest his gifts and energies were so unsparingly devoted, from the first day of his official connection with it to the end of life. We are striving to say, in reference to this sore bereavement, "*Thy will be done!*" and inexpressible is our gratitude to the God of all grace, that our venerated Friend and Father was

so di
able

As
circu
the c
bers
walk
Chur
the F
full v
tory
ply v
appea

It a
all ou
prese
the y
tion l
fear l
nexio
becor
the R
others
princi
largel
bestov
tions
inform
dent t
design
receiv
ence.

Richa
Dr. Ri

We
for goo
as our
diffuse
Wesley
and in
in open
in St.

so divinely supported in the closing scene of his long and honorable career.

O may we triumph so,
When all our warfare's past;
And dying find our latest foe
Under our feet at last.

As a befitting expression of the sensation occasioned by the circumstances under which we assembled, all our churches in the city were put in mourning by the Trustees; and the members of the Conference, wearing a simple badge of mourning, walked in procession from the Germain-street to the Centenary Church, to hear a discourse in which, by our unanimous request, the Rev. RICHARD KNIGHT, D. D., the senior minister in our full work in these Provinces, appropriately improved the monitory occurrence of our President's removal. If Mr. Knight comply with the solicitation of the Conference, his discourse will appear in a more permanent form.

It affords us great satisfaction to be able to assure you, that all our Societies have entered most heartily into the plan of our present organization, and have nobly supported it throughout the year. Already our high anticipations of its beneficial operation have been justified, nor can we discover any ground to fear but that, by the blessing of God, our newly formed connexion will, in all the Societies throughout its ample territory, become stronger and stronger. The visits of the Co-delegate, the Rev. Dr. RICHEY, to all the principal circuits and to many others in which he eloquently and persuasively explained the principles, objects, and advantages of our new position, have largely contributed to this result. We glorify God for the grace bestowed on Dr. Richey. He has presided over our deliberations with dignity, acceptance, and effect; and we respectfully inform you of our desire that he may be appointed as our President for the ensuing year, and beg to assure you that your designation of him to that high and responsible office, will receive a grateful welcome from every member of this Conference. We take the liberty further to request that the Rev. Richard Knight, D. D., may be authorized by you to succeed Dr. Richey as Co-delegate.

We are induced to hope for a large accession to our influence for good, from the appointment of the Rev. Charles Churchill as our Book Steward. We have a wide field over which to diffuse the unsurpassed, standard and periodical literature of Wesleyan Methodism. Our people, generally, are educated and intelligent. By enlarging the Book Establishment already in operation at Halifax, and by opening a branch of the concern in St. John, in accordance with the directions of the Conference,

dead
h the
every
well
glory

ERN

arent
per-
tisfac-
ich it

in the
sioned
Rev.
of his
ve we
on his
scape
y, and
whose
voted,
end of
reave-
ade to
er was

we doubt not that Mr. Churchill, if sustained as he has a right to expect by our ministers and friends, will soon exhibit practical demonstration of his eminent qualifications for the office to which he has been appointed.

You will perceive by our Minutes that the number of members now reported, shows a small decrease as compared with the aggregate returned last year. This may perhaps require a word of explanation. The apparent decrease is attributable chiefly to two causes; namely, the necessity imposed by our adoption of the whole financial economy of the parent body, of a thorough and even rigorous revisal of our lists of membership,—and the discontinuance of a return of some scores of members, from an interesting region on the western shore of Newfoundland, in consequence of the absence of any definite information as to the state of our interest there, it not having been found practicable for any of our ministers to visit that locality the past year. Many of the people are warmly attached to our institutions, and not a few would rejoice in an opportunity to enjoy all our church privileges, but for the present they are unavoidably left as sheep without a shepherd. This place appears among our stations, and will be supplied as speedily as possible. It is gratifying that we are able to report *six hundred and thirty-one* on trial for membership. Openings for the extension of our work beckon us onward in all directions. Trembling under a sense of our vastly augmented responsibilities, we urge, with more fervid importunity, our plea to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send forth more laborers into his harvest. Seven candidates for our ministry, cordially recommended by their respective districts, have been received by the Conference, and appointed to circuits. Six young men having honorably passed through the period of probation, are received into full connexion. Two of these were, for special reasons, ordained last autumn, during the visit of the Co-delegate and Dr. Knight, to Newfoundland; and the other four have been, solemnly set apart to the ministry of the Word, at the present Conference. These beloved brethren witnessed a good confession before many witnesses, and the ordination service was one of hallowed and joyous solemnity.

The Mount Allison Academy, which, from its commencement, has conferred important advantages on other portions of the community as well as our own, has been more than usually influential for good, both intellectual and spiritual, in the course of the past year. It may be justly regarded as conclusive evidence of the excellence of this institution, that its history has, from year to year, been marked by progressive efficiency and prosperity. Never did it occupy a more elevated position than at present. Abundant proof was afforded by the public exami-

nati
mer
then
stru
wer
effu
the
tude
asce
tal
fami
T
SON,
the
and
ence
their
At
on o
from
us to
ducti
spirit
supp
pains
point
to the
tion c
We
in the
from
WILI
D. RI
refere
repres
not a
arran
them,
accept
of the
thousa
Life.
Thr
with h
repres
boring
compa

nation of the pupils at the close of the academic year, of advancement in their different departments of study, alike creditable to themselves and to the qualifications and assiduity of their instructors. Both branches of the institution, we rejoice to say, were, towards the close of the last term, favored with a copious effusion of the Divine Spirit, the cheering result of which was the conversion to God of not a few of the students. Our sollecitude follows them to their respective homes; and our prayers ascend to God, that by His continued benediction on their mental and religious training, they may become a blessing to their families, to the Church, and to the world.

The noble-minded founder of the institution, CHARLES ALLISON, Esq., Treasurer; the Rev. HUMPHREY PICKARD, A. M., the Principal; and the Rev. EPHRAIM EVANS, D. D., Chaplain and Governor, have received the cordial thanks of the Conference for their services during the year, and are reappointed to their respective offices.

As it will be impossible for us, for some time to come, to carry on our work in these Provinces, without the accustomed grant from the Missionary Society, we feel it to be imperative upon us to employ our best efforts to render our AUXILIARY as productive as possible in return. Cherishing the true Wesleyan spirit of missionary enterprise, and grateful for the generous support we have so long received from you, we shall spare no pains to hasten the development of our own resources to the point of self-sustentation; and then, continuing our contributions to the Parent Society, share with you in the honor and satisfaction of spreading the gospel in heathen lands.

We have been honored by our sister Conference in Canada in the appearance among us of a most respectable deputation from that rapidly expanding connexion, consisting of the Revs. WILLIAM RYERSON, GEORGE R. SANDERSON, and SAMUEL D. RICE. The communications of these honored brethren, in reference to the state and prospects of the Church which they represented, were of the most animating character, and tended not a little to confirm our confidence in the wisdom of the arrangement by which we have been so closely assimilated to them, in our ecclesiastical constitution and economy. Not less acceptable and effective have been the services in the sanctuary of these able ministers of the New Testament, while to listening thousands they have held forth, in its purest lustre, the Word of Life.

Through the medium of the public press, we have traced, with high gratification, the admirable manner in which your representatives to the Methodist Episcopal Church of the neighboring Republic, the venerable Dr. HANNAH and his eloquent companion, the Rev. F. JOBSON, fulfilled their important mis-

sion. We entertained a hope that it might accord with their plans to honor us with a short visit at our Conference; but while indulging the pleasing anticipation, the telegraph apprized us of their embarkation for England. We trust we shall in due time hear of their arrival at home in health and safety, through the good providence of Him whom winds and seas obey.

Our Conference has been characterized throughout by the utmost harmony and brotherly love. Our public religious services have been times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We shall repair to our allotted scenes of hallowed toil, renewing our engagements to consecrate our gifts and energies unreservedly to the cause of Christ; and while we uncompromisingly testify those doctrinal principles of general redemption, and of present, plenary, and conscious salvation wrought and attested in the believing heart, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which distinguish Methodism from some other forms of Christianity, we shall strive to cultivate and exhibit the kind and Catholic spirit of the first race of Methodist preachers.

Never, honored fathers and brethren, can we cease to cherish towards you, sentiments of profound regard, deference and love. Looking, as we do, with grateful admiration at the elevated and increasingly influential position which you sustain among the churches of the age, and at the means by which, under the especial guidance and blessing of Heaven, it has been attained, we glow with holy emulation to imitate your example. May we look to obtain mercy, to be found faithful, walking by the same rule, and minding the same things.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Conference of Eastern British America.

WILLIAM TEMPLE, Secretary.

St. JOHN, N. B., June 25th, 1856.