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MINUTES

OF

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

Conference

OF THE

CANADIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH,

HELD AT

HAMILTON,

GORE DISTRICT,

ON THE 8TH DAY OF JUNE, &c. &c. 1841.

PRINTED AT RUTHVEN'S BOOK AND JOB OFFICE,

King-Street, Hamilton.

PRICE SIXPENCE CY.

ACCORDING
Cavan, N
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singing an

QUESTIO

J. Addym
E. Bailey
J. Bell,
R. Bloom
J. Brenna
B. P. Bro
T. Cole,
C. Cope,
J. Craig,

I. Crea,
R. Geary,

D. Bettis,
H. Johnson

M. Aikman
H. Ayres,
R. Brown,
J. Cummins
M. Dundass
I. Eddy,
W. Hodgins

* To be ad
in duty.

MINUTES,

&c. &c.

ACCORDING to the appointment of the last Conference, held at Cavan, Newcastle District, the Preachers and Lay-representatives assembled at Hamilton, Gore District; and, after singing and prayer, proceeded to business.

QUESTION 1. Who compose the present Conference?

ANSWER 1. Elders.

J. Addyman,
E. Bailey,
J. Bell,
R. Bloomfield,
J. Brennan,
B. P. Brown,
T. Cole,
C. Cope,
J. Craig,

H. O. Crofts,
J. Hales,
I. Haney,
I. Hutchinson,
J. Jackson,
I. Marshall,
W. Martin,
D. Nickerson,
H. Plum,

J. Reid,
T. Rump,
W. Shaw,
J. Sheldon,
J. Shilton,
*W. Sparham,
J. C. Warren,
J. Wilkinson,
J. Williams.

2, Deacons.

I. Crea,
R. Geary,

T. T. Howard,
W. Robinson,

J. Whaley.

3, Licentiates.

D. Bettis,
H. Johnson,

J. Laidley,
W. Ramage,

J. Simpson,
E. Van Norman.

4, Lay-representatives.

M. Aikman,
H. Ayres,
R. Brown,
J. Cummins,
M. Dundass,
I. Eddy,
W. Hodgins,

G. Jones,
S. Kenny,
J. Lent,
J. Little,
T. Lottridge,
M. Lowery,
D. McGregor,

M. Millard,
J. Moor,
R. Post,
W. D. Smith,
O. Todd,
J. Turner,
J. Youart,

* To be admonished by the Preacher in charge, to a greater diligence in duty.

Q. 2.—Who were elected and ordained Elders?

A.—R. Bloomfield, J. Craig, D. Nickerson, and T. Rump.

Q. 3.—Who were elected and ordained Deacons?

A.—T. T. Howard, and W. Robinson.

Q. 4.—Whose Licenses have been renewed?

A.—D. Bettis, J. Laidley, and H. Johnson.

Q. 5.—Who have received License?

A.—W. Ramage, J. Simpson, and E. Van Norman.

Q. 6.—Who are expelled?

A.—None.

Q. 7.—Who are acknowledged withdrawn?

A.—K. Creighton, and J. Culham.

N. B.—The Conference deeply regret the improper manner in which these brethren retired from their labours amongst us.

Q. 8.—Have the character of the Preachers been examined?

A.—They have, with impartiality.

Q. 9.—Have any died this year?

A.—None.

Q. 10.—What numbers are in society?

A.—Circuits,	Members.
<i>Ancaster and Nelson</i> ,.....	192
<i>Caledon</i> ,.....	22
<i>Cobourg and Hillier</i> ,.....	250
<i>Gosfield and Thames</i> ,.....	100
<i>Goulbourne</i> ,.....	100
<i>Hamilton</i> ,.....	102
<i>Henrysburg</i> ,.....	50
<i>Lansdown and Rideau</i> ,.....	134
<i>London</i> ,.....	69
<i>Montreal</i> ,.....	56
<i>Peterborough</i> ,.....	150
<i>St. Thomas</i> ,.....	128
<i>Trafalgar and Markham</i> ,.....	60
<i>Waterford</i> ,.....	417
<i>Welland Canal</i> ,.....	85
<i>Members</i> ,.....	1915
<i>Preachers</i> ,.....	38
<i>Total in Connexion</i> ,.....	1953

Q. 11.

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Q. 11. Where are the Preachers stationed this year ?

- A. *Ancaster and Nelson*,.....J. Wilkinson, J. Shilton.
- Caledon*,.....J. Laidley.
- Cobourg and Hillier*,.....J. Brennan, D. Bettis.
- Gosfield and Thames*,.....
- Goulbourne*,.....J. Craig,
- Hamilton*,.....T. T. Howard,
- Henrysburg*,.....J. Hutchinson,
- Lansdown and Rideau*,.....J. Bell, J. Simpson.
- Montreal*,.....H. O. Crofts.
- Peterborough*,.....J. Hales.
- St. Thomas and London*,....T. Rump, E. VanNorman.
- Trafalgar and Markham*,....W. Robinson.
- Waterford*,.....E. Bailey.
- Welland Canal*,.....J. Jackson.

The Superintendent Preacher of any Circuit, being an Elder, is to act as Chairman of the same ; but if the Superintendent Preacher, be not an Elder, the Superintendent of the Mission, is to make provision in that case.

The Conference regrets its inability to appoint a Preacher to this Circuit, but have requested brother J. C. Warren, to take the charge, until the Annual Committee can send a supply.

Members.

- .. 192
- .. 22
- .. 250
- .. 100
- .. 100
- .. 102
- .. 50
- .. 134
- .. 69
- .. 56
- .. 150
- .. 128
- .. 60
- .. 417
- .. 85

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RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE.

1. THAT Wm. Ridgway, Esq., member of the Missionary Committee of the Methodist New Connexion, in England, be respectfully invited to attend the Conference, and to assist in its discussions and decisions.

2. The Committee appointed to investigate the case of debt incurred by the failure of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist printing establishment, having reported, that, by special direction of the Conference of 1836, Messrs Aikman, and Lottridge, paid the sum of £250 to Dr. McKenzie;—that, by interest on the same, to this time, the sum is augmented £59,13 6;—that of outstanding debts £50 4 6, have been received, without a probability of receiving more from that source, leaving a ballance now due, of £259 9 0;—that further delay in meeting the case, will tend to increase the debt; and as there are no connexional funds from which it could be paid; the Conference resolves:—

That, an attempt be made to raise the same, in the several Circuits, by voluntary subscriptions; and, that, should these not raise the required amount, that such deficiency be made up out of the general funds of the quarterly conference of such Circuit.

That, as the members of, and friends at this Conference, have shown their willingness (as appears by the annexed list of subscriptions,) to discharge the debt; it is hoped that this will be met by corresponding efforts in the Circuits; and thus it will be removed, the present year; and the more so, is it urged, as hereby, through the liberal offer of one of the creditors, about £40 will be saved to the connexion.

That, the Circuits are respectfully requested to raise the sums apportioned to them, in the following table; namely,

Ancaster and Nelson, . . . £30	London, £12
Caledon, 10	Peterboroug, 20
Cobourg and Hillier, 26	St. Thomas, 20
Goulbourne, 24	Trafalgar, 24
Hamilton, 30	Waterford, 30
Lansdown, 24	Welland Canal, 18

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Mr. W.
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That, on, or before the Conference of 1842, the subscriptions received, be paid in to the connexional Treasurer, Mr. J. Hughson; and, that, the preacher in charge of each Circuit, distinctly understand, that he is expected to see to it, that this business be attended to in his circuit.

Subscriptions made at the Conference.

Mr. W. Ridgway,.....£10 0	Rev. J. Bell,.....£3 0
Rev. J. Addyman,..... 5 0	Mr. J. Lent,..... 3 0
.. J. Jackson,..... 5 0	Rev. T. Rump,..... 2 10
.. E. Bailey,..... 5 0	.. J. Craig,..... 2 0
Mr. R. Bloomfield,..... 5 0	.. J. Simpson,..... 1 0
Rev. J. Brennan,..... 5 0	Mr. J. Haney,..... 1 0
.. J. Hales,..... 5 0	.. W. Ramage,..... 1 0
.. T. Howard,..... 5 0	.. D. Gregory,..... 1 0
Mr. M. Aikman,..... 5 0	Rev. J. Shilton,..... 1 0
.. T. Lottridge,..... 5 0	Mr. D. Rose,..... 1 0
.. J. Eddy,..... 5 0	.. J. C. Warren,.... 1 0
.. M. Lowery,..... 4 0	.. D. Nickerson,.... 0 10

3. That, Mr. Addyman have authority, from this Conference, and on its behalf; receive the money on account of the London Chapel, and sign the necessary acquittance for the same.

4. That, the case of the Peterborough Chapel, be submitted to the Annual Committee; and that they be instructed to take, soon as possible, legal advise on the subject, and to use such other measures as may be necessary, to secure the property for its original purpose.

5. The expressed opinion from the Circuits, on the proposed union of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church, with the Methodist New Connexion in England, being so decidedly favourable; and the articles of that union being approved of by the Conference of the Methodist New Connexion; this Conference unanimously resolves;—That, the Union be now consummated, upon the principles laid down in the minutes of Conference, for 1840.

6. To guard against any misapprehension as to the nature of the Annual Grants, by the Missionary Committee in Eng-

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land, namely, not exceeding £20 to a married and £12 to a single preacher, per annum ;—

It is understood, that the great object, the Methodist New Connexion had in view, in establishing the Mission in Canada, was to spread the Gospel of the Redeemer, more extensively. And, considering they have been led in the providence of God, to unite with the Canadian Wesleyan Methodists, who hold the same doctrines, and have struggled for the same christian liberty, they believe that by uniting and co-operating with this christian community, the more important object they had in view, will be more fully realized. At the same time, it is proper, that it should be clearly understood, that whilst they are most anxious, to assist in every way they can, for the accomplishment of so desirable an object, it must be kept in view ;—that, those circuits which may be able to support their preachers, without any allowance from the missionary funds, ought to do so ; and those circuits which may only require a portion of such grant, receive accordingly. And Mr. Addyman, having expressed his wish, to receive the assistance of the Annual Conference, that it will be the duty of the Annual Conference, to determine, with the concurrence of the superintendant of the mission, what each circuit shall have for the ensuing year, after each Conference ; so that the superintendant of the mission, may pay the same, so as to meet the convenience of the preachers.

That, in the event of the erection of Chapels and Preacher's Houses, it is understood, the Missionary Committee, in England, will feel pleasure in attending to any suggestions of this nature, through the superintendant of the mission, to the extent of their pecuniary ability : provided, satisfactory arrangements be made, for the due completion, and settling upon trust, such Chapels and Preacher's Houses, so as to leave no incumbrance upon the same, after the amount agreed to be paid by the Missionary Committee, shall have been received.

7. A communication having been made to this Conference, by Mr. Addyman, the Superintendant of the Methodist New Connexion, Mission to Canada, that the Committee of the said Mission, had ascertained that it would give more general satisfaction to the members of the Methodist New Connexion, in England, and in their estimation, be considered a more complete identity of the two religious communities ; and lead them

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more cordially to support the Missions, if the term "*Wesleyan*" was discontinued, and for the designation of the united religious community to be, the *Canadian Methodist New Connexion*;—the Conference resolves:—

That, for the present—the name of the united body, remain as stated in the minutes of Conference, for 1840; but, that the Preachers and Representatives, submit the proposed alteration to the various quarterly meetings, and endeavour to obtain their concurrence in the same, and that a report be sent to the next Conference for its guidance in this matter.

8. The Canadian Wesleyan Church, having been compelled by the urgency of particular cases, to call out as Circuit preachers, individuals, of whose talents and qualifications they had but an imperfect knowledge; and having learned by painful experience, the injury, which the Church has sustained, for the want of preachers of suitable talents, habits of business, devotedness, and energy of character; and being persuaded, that in the present circumstances of this Province, there is but a slight probability of obtaining a regular supply of suitably qualified Preachers, even for the present limited wants of the Church, much less, to carry out the benevolent and extended plans of the united body; and taking into account the probability of the blessings of education, being provided for more extensively than heretofore, and the increasing intelligence of the people at large:—this Conference, cordially approves the following plan, submitted to them, and fully sanctions the carrying out of the same, provided the ways and means can be obtained.

A small estate in the vicinity of Hamilton, to be purchased—upon which a suitable House, &c. shall be erected, and to be called the *WESLEYVILLE INSTITUTION*, capable of accommodating comfortably, the Representative of the Methodist New Connexion, from England, and his family, as Superintendent of the Mission, and with from four to eight young men, to receive instructions not less than six months, and not exceeding twelve months.

The young men to be admitted into this Institution, shall be recommended by the quarterly Conferences, in the same manner, as though they were intended to be recommended to the Annual Conference, for Circuit preachers.

That, the young men connected with the various societies, of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion, hav-

ing the requisite testimonials, and recommendation from the quarterly Conference, shall be considered as the most eligible; also, young men in England, whom the Missionary Committee, of the Methodist New Connexion, shall deem eligible, shall be received into such Institution, to qualify for circuit preachers.

That such young men, who themselves or friends, may be able to pay the sum of £20 for the year, and in the same proportion for a less period, shall be required to do so.

That those who are less able, shall pay a part of such £20, or in proportion for a less period, but those, whose circumstances are such, as not to allow them to pay anything, shall be excused doing so.

That all young men, received into this Institution, will be expected to provide themselves with decent clothes.

That as the intention in establishing this Institution, is to give, as far as practicable, the requisite qualifications, to the Circuit Preachers of the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion, both mentally and bodily; and at the same time, to do it in the most economical manner; that its advantages, may be more extensively diffused. The young men who may be admitted, shall be required to devote a portion of their time to manual labour, so as to contribute to the support of the Institution; and at the same time, give them that practical knowledge, which may render them useful in a variety of ways.

The kind of instruction, imparted at this Institution, is intended,

1st. To give the students a correct knowledge of their Mother tongue, so as to enable them to speak it correctly; and write it with facility.

2nd. To enable them, by a practical course of reading, to become extensively acquainted with men and things.

3rd. To be made acquainted with the particular duties which are likely to devolve upon them, as Circuit Preachers, and by being accustomed to reduce any business transactions, they may have to engage in, to a simple system; to be able to direct and train others in the same habit of business, in the Circuits, in which they may travel; and thus, contribute to the order, and prosperity of the same.

It is especially intended, in the establishment of this Institution, in humble dependence upon the Divine blessing, succeeding the same; to make the students, thus, thoroughly acquainted with the word of God; and for them to be grounded in those sound Scriptural Doctrines, which, as a Religious

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community, we profess to believe in, and to teach, as well, those benevolent and exalted views, which the Gospel of the Blessed Saviour inculcates; that whenever they may be called by the Annual Conference, to enter upon the field of christian labour, they may prove themselves men of God, and live in the hearts of the people: and thus, become the honoured instruments, of widely diffusing the blessings of that Gospel, which alone, imparts peace and joy, through believing on the Son of God.

That the Representative of the Methodist New Connexion, in Canada, shall have the care and direction of this Institution, assisted by an Executive Committee, of five persons, to be appointed by the Annual Conference, three of whom shall be Laymen, and two Preachers, the Representative from England being a member of such Committee, ex-Officio and Chairman of the same; and under such Rules and Regulations, as the Annual Conference, shall from time to time enact.

That the Annual Committee, be entrusted with obtaining the funds, (to establish the Wesleyville Institution,) both in Canada, and through the assistance of Mr. Wm. Ridgway, in England; and so soon as a sufficient amount may be realized, to justify them in commencing the same, that it be forthwith begun; and that in the mean time, they obtain plans, and all the information necessary, to enable them to complete the same, in a substantial, but at the same time economical manner.

9. That, the outlines of discipline for the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion, now submitted to Conference, be approved as the basis of such discipline; and that the same be entrusted to the Annual Committee, to draw out more fully, and to publish as early as possible.

10. That a respectful address be sent, from this Conference, to the Annual Conference of the Methodist New Connexion, in England.

11. In consequence of the union between the Methodist New Connexion, and the Wesleyan Methodists, it is considered necessary, on legal principles, that the Ministers renew their licenses under the name of the united body; the Conference resolves;—That the necessary credentials, be furnished to the preachers, to enable them to obtain the same.

12. That James Hughson, Esq., be Treasurer of the Paternal and the Beneficent Funds.

13. It being possible that the proceeds of the Paternal Fund may not, this year, be adequate to the demands allowed by rule; the Conference resolves;—That, in such case, the amount received, be proportionably divided among the children having claims thereon.

14. That, the Revds: J. Addyman, J. Jackson and T. T. Howard, and M. Aikman, Esq., J. Hughson, Esq., and the Hon. J. Willson, form the Annual Committee, for the next year; Mr. Addyman to be the Corresponding Member.

15. That, the thanks of this Conference be presented to Mr. Wm. Ridgway, for the very active part he has taken in, and the valuable assistance he has rendered to, this Conference.

16. That, the next Annual Conference, constituted according to rule, be held at Cavan, (in the Chapel on the ninth concession) Newcastle District, on the second Wednesday in June, 1842.

ADDRESSES

OF

Superintendents and Officers of the Connexion.

<i>Ancaster and Nelson</i>	Flamboro West.
<i>Caledon</i>	Mr. McCormies, Erin.
<i>Cobourg and Hillvie</i>	Picton, Prince Edward District.
<i>Gosfield</i>	Eries, P. O. Raleigh, Western District.
<i>Goulbourne</i>	Hutley, Goulbourne.
<i>Hamilton</i>	P. O. Hamilton, Gore District.
<i>Henrysburg</i>	Napierville, near Montreal.
<i>Lansdown and Rideau</i>	Lansdown.
<i>Montreal</i>	Messrs. T. McAdams & Co., Montreal.
<i>St. Thomas and London</i>	P. O. Aylmer, Malahide.
<i>Trafalgar and Markham</i> ,...	Churchville, Township of Toronto.
<i>Peterborough</i>	Caven.
<i>Waterford</i>	Simcoe, District of Talbet.
<i>Welland Canal</i>	St. Catharines, Niagara District.

Officers of the Connexion.

<i>Superintendent of the Mission,</i>	} Hamilton, Gore District.
<i>Treasurer of the Paternal and Beneficent Funds,</i>	
<i>Corresponding Member of the Annual Committee.</i>	

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ADDRESS

OF THE

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE,

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST
CHURCH.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We avail ourselves, by the custom of the Annual Address, of reminding you, that as we are associated with you, in promoting the Kingdom of Christ, and participating with you, in the honor and happiness of our holy religion; we feel a lively interest in your spiritual welfare; and design hereby, to strengthen those feelings of mutual attachment and co-operation, which under God, are necessary to our happiness and prosperity.

From us, it calls for unfeigned gratitude to God, and we have unspeakable pleasure in having to inform you, that as the messengers of the Churches, assembled in this Conference, in the discharge of the duties devolving upon us, and in the varied services connected therewith, an unusual degree of manifestations of the divine favour has rested upon us.—Never was there an assembly, where there was a more striking exemplification of that declaration, “Behold! how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

We rejoice with you. Dear Brethren, and are thankful, that, by the workings of a gracious providence, order has been restored, and that peace prevails in the Province. We pray that this may long abide, and that our subsequent conduct may continue to show, that we HONOR HER MAJESTY, RESPECT HER LAWS, AND DESIRE TO PROMOTE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE LAND IN WHICH WE LIVE.

The reports from the circuits, produced feelings of pleasure and gratitude; for though, over a few circuits we had to mourn the want of sensible evidence of prosperity, yet in the greater number, there was abundant proof, that the Lord of Hosts was with us; and thus, many in the past year have

been brought to know the truth ; the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

The question of the union of our Body, with the Methodist New Connexion, has been before you, for consideration for more than twelve months. The opinion expressed from the circuits of its propriety, was so unanimous ; and there was so many striking incidents, giving intimation of the divine approbation of the measure ; that, with the strongest confidence, the Conference unanimously consummated the same. You will be pleased to learn, that the only object contemplated, by the Methodist New Connexion, in England, in desiring a union with us, is to enable us (by placing funds at our disposal) as a religious community, to enlarge our border, and to spread more fully, those doctrines, and that mode of church government, which we are led to believe, are highly calculated to promote glory to God, peace upon earth, and good will amongst men. In the effecting of this union, you have not to relinquish any doctrine you have received ;—to abandon any principle of church-government you have adopted ; nor to sacrifice any of that christian liberty, for which you have nobly contended.

By this union, Dear Brethren, under the divine blessing, as the CANADIAN WESLEYAN METHODIST NEW CONNEXION, you possess a greater facility than heretofore, for carrying out the benevolent and extended objects contemplated by the united body ; and you are laid, individually, under stronger obligations, by renewed and increased efforts, to co-operate with the body, in effecting the glorious object. We therefore affectionately, but earnestly call upon you, to be alive to the duties of church-membership. Think not, that the object of your being members, is answered in your personal salvation. This is truly important, and that which we would have you particularly regard ; but, *this* is not all, you are commanded, “ as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy generation, a peculiar people ; to shew forth the praises of him, who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” You are called to be “ workers together with Christ, in bringing many sons unto glory.” We beseech you, therefore, to walk worthy of your high and heavenly calling. So live, that your life may be a practical comment of that holy religion you profess to believe. Regard it as your *duty and privilege*, affectionately to urge upon others, the claims of that religion which has made you happy. Let the mind be in you, which was in

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Christ Jesus:—take HIM for your example; he, was *holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and went about doing good.*

We especially request you, to cherish sentiments of due respect for, and confidence in the ministers of the Gospel, who labour among you. The nature of their office entitles them to it, the authority of God enjoins it. "Brethren," says the Apostle, "know them that labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and esteem them very highly in love, for their work's sake." Receive them with cordial affection;—be tender of their character and reputation;—promote their comfort; and zealously strive with them, in their exertions for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. *Do this*, and you will ensure their affection, enflame their zeal, and will lead them to shew themselves your *willing* "servants for Christ's sake."

We would cordially recommend you, to cultivate feelings of *charity*, towards other christians who may differ from you in some particulars; remembering that though we differ in the circumstantial, in essential principle, christians are *one*. One, in Christ; and herein, let it be seen, that, though in some particulars, we *cannot agree*, yet we can *agree to disagree*, and thus, give the world the test word of our religion,—namely, that we "*love one another.*"

DEAR BRETHREN, whether private members, or office bearers, we entreat you faithfully, and perseveringly, to discharge the duties devolving upon you; then shall we the more clearly see, that "the beauty of the Lord our God is upon us;" that "the work of our hands is established; yea, the work of our hands, the Lord will establish it."

Now, unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Signed on behalf of the Conference,

JAMES JACKSON,

President.

M. AIKMAN,

Secretary.

ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE,
TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST NEW
CONNEXION, IN ENGLAND.

DEAR BRETHREN,—We enter upon the pleasing duty of addressing you, with mingled feelings of gratitude, to Almighty God, and of affection to you, as the official medium, of your highly esteemed, religious community.

A gratitude to God, for his great goodness, in having continued to watch over us, and under every difficulty, has supported and comforted us; but especially, for having, in the course of his wise and merciful providence, put it into your hearts, to think of your brethren in this distant part of the earth; and to send them that, which is so much needed, Ministers of the Gospel, to make known to perishing sinners, the way of salvation. We devoutly, and thankfully acknowledge, the good hand of our God, in directing the steps of our dear brother Addyman, (the Superintendent of your mission to this country,) to Hamilton; and who, having made us more fully acquainted with the doctrines you believe in, and teach; and the nature of your Church discipline; and having found, upon careful examination, that both corresponded, with what the Canadian Wesleyan Church believe, and the same christian liberty, they have struggled for: the conviction was at once impressed upon our minds, that it was in the order of God's Providence, that we should unite with your Religious community, in the accomplishment of the benevolent object you had in view; and after the subject had been considered by our Annual Conference, in June, 1840, the proposed union was fully discussed, and the basis of the same arranged; but feeling anxious that a step so important, should not be finally carried out, without the concurrence of our various circuits; and as those the most distant, had but an imperfect knowledge of the subject, we thought it most prudent, to obtain the approval of all the Circuits; and for this purpose, appointed an Executive Committee; from various circumstances, which have transpired, the Committee did not obtain the requisite returns, until the year was far advanced; and it was then thought to

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be the most proper course, to allow the Representatives of the Circuits, to consummate the union at the Annual Conference of 1841.

It now, dear Brethren, affords us the most sincere pleasure, to inform you, that our Annual Conference, assembled at Hamilton, have unanimously confirmed the articles of union, and the same having been previously approved, by your Annual Conference; we now address you, not only as our brethren in Christ, but as forming a part of your religious community; and, though separated by the waters of the mighty Atlantic, yet, one in spirit, one in affection, one in faith, one in church discipline, and one in heart to extend with your help, the blessings of the Gospel of peace, throughout this Province; and we pray, that the blessings of Almighty God, may crown our united efforts to promote his glory, in the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

We cannot but acknowledge the goodness of God, in having directed, so providentially, the steps of our friend and brother, Mr. Wm. Ridgway, to Hamilton, at this particular juncture, (having so long been officially connected with your Religious Community,) the experience of our brother, has directed our attention to several important particulars, which we have reason to hope, when fully carried out, will contribute to the spread, of Divine truth, in this Province. It is our fervent prayer, that our dear brother, may be preserved in peace, and return in safety, to the bosom of his family; and that wherever his providential lot may be cast, he may still continue a devoted and useful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Entering fully into your benevolent views, in the more extensive diffusion of the blessings of the glorious Gospel; and persuaded, that it is our duty, to use all suitable means, which may be placed at our disposal, for the accomplishment of this object. We have concluded, after careful deliberation, to establish an Institution, near Hamilton, for the instruction of young men, intended for Ministers of the Gospel; to be called the WESLEYVILLE INSTITUTION. We may here observe, that to the present time, we have found great difficulty, as a Religious Community, in procuring suitably qualified young men for the Ministry; and we have had occasion to mourn over some, who have rather hindered, than promoted the work of God amongst us; and as we consider the field is now white to harvest; and your liberal pecuniary assistance, will provide us with the means, to send more labourers into the vine-

yard; we trust, under the Divine blessing, we shall be enabled to train up men, duly qualified for the important work, in which they are called to engage: men full of zeal, and of the Holy Ghost; and who, will not consider their lives dear unto them, so that they may be the honoured instruments of turning perishing sinners from sin to holiness.

We are anxious to impress upon your minds, dear brethren, that in the establishment of the Institution, to which we have adverted, our intention is, to admit only such young men, as our quarterly Conferences would have recommended to the Annual Conference, as Circuit Preachers, and to give them that instruction, which will enable them to speak and write their Mother tongue, with propriety and facility, to direct them to a useful course of reading, to make them fully acquainted with the word of God, and to be grounded in those fundamental doctrines, we profess to believe and to teach; at the same time, to make them acquainted with those duties, which will devolve upon them, whenever the Annual Conference may call them into the vineyard of Christ, to labour for God. It is our earnest prayer, that the great Head of the Church, may direct and assist us, in this undertaking; that his great and holy name may be glorified.

Appreciating the benevolent motives, which have influenced the Methodist New Connexion, in sending Christian Missionaries to Canada; we cannot but believe, that the same will be more extensively and economically realized, through the instrumentality of the union, which has happily taken place.—We have already many stations, to which the people, not less from affection to our Religious Community, than the spiritual destitution of the people, urgently call us; but, such is the want of suitably qualified labourers, that though your christian liberality, would furnish us with the means for providing for such; yet, we have not men of God, suitable for the important work;—with the man of Macedonia, we would say to you, Brethren, come over and help us; and we, at the same time, devoutly pray, the Lord of the harvest, to send more labourers, into his Gospel vineyard.

Dear Brethren, when we cast our eye over this vast country, with its generally, thinly scattered population, and the unceasing efforts required, to make the wilderness fruitful, for the sustenance of man; when we reflect, that many of them, have been compelled to expatriate themselves, from a country, the recollection of which, is still fondly cherished by them, as

their fatherland; that in many instances of your fancied means, the blessed or even to with, and of great part this nature far short of the restraint fallen into their mind light; of s God, and v power, to s has been o pel, has be are the t in Canada. ultation, th a gracious ere long, se over the le and the soli rejoice, and an interest in England course, tha to bear you every blessi tion; and t your beloved ty, the Quee ousness; a country, no Evangelize we remain

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their father land, and the scene of their earliest recollections ; that in many instances, they had been provided with the ordinances of God's House, and the communion of Saints.—Let your fancy present to your view, not merely a few, but hundreds of families, located in the wilderness, so distant from the means of Grace, that to have the opportunity, of having the blessed Gospel preached, even within the distance of ten, or even twenty miles, is a blessing they are seldom favoured with, and too highly valued to be neglected, even at the hazard of great personal risk and inconvenience. Imagine cases of this nature, and much more destitute, and your fancy will fall far short of the reality : in many instances, by the absence of the restraining influences of religious ordinances, many have fallen into the most depraved habits ; and so darkened have their minds become, that they have no desire to come to the light ; of such, it may emphatically be said, they live without God, and without hope in the world.—Thank God, his mighty power, to save even such rebels, by the preaching of his word, has been often proved ; the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, has been a hammer, to break the rocky heart ; and many are the trophies of the Redeemer's power to save, even in Canada. We look forward with holy confidence and exultation, that in the dilligent and faithful use of those means, a gracious providence has placed at our disposal ; we shall ere long, see the messengers of the Gospel of peace, spreading over the length and breath of the land ; when the wilderness, and the solitary place shall be glad for them ; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. Finally, Brethren, we beg an interest in your prayers, and of the dear christian brethren, in England, that the word of God's grace, may have free course, that it may run and be glorified. We shall not cease to bear you and them, before the throne of grace, and pray, that every blessing necessary for time and eternity, may be your portion ; and that a kind Providence, may continue to watch over your beloved country for good, that the throne of Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, may be established in righteousness ; and that God may continue to honour our common country, not only as the instrument to civilize, but also, to Evangelize the world : with christian esteem and affection, we remain your Brethren, in the Gospel of Christ.

Signed on behalf of the Conference,

JAMES JACKSON.