

MINUTES

OF

SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN

THE MINISTERS

OF THE

Wesleyan-Methodist Church in Canada,

AT THEIR

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

BEGUN IN HAMILTON,

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12th, AND CONCLUDED ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1839.

TORONTO:

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY JOHN RYERSON,
CONFERENCE OFFICE, 9, WELLINGTON BUILDINGS.

1839.

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MINUTES.

QUESTION I.

What Preachers are this year ADMITTED INTO FULL
CONNEXION WITH THE CONFERENCE AND ORDAINED?

ANSWER.

Cornelius Flummerfelt,*	Thomas Hurlburt,*
William Haw,	Hugh Montgomery,*
John McIntyre,*	Vincent B. Howard,
William Young,*	Benjamin Nankevill,
Stephen Brownell,*	Daniel Berney.*

* These had been previously ordained for special purposes.

Ques. II. What Preachers REMAIN ON TRIAL?

Ans. Stephen Miles,	William Willoughby,
William Scott,	Sylvester Hurlburt,
John Lever,	Charles B. Goodrich,
George Goodson,	Solomon Snyder.

These have travelled THREE years.

William Coleman,	Wellington Jeffers.
David Hardie,	

These have travelled two years.

Henry Byers,	George Sanderson,
James Spencer,	Arkle S. Newbury.

These have travelled ONE year.

Ques. III. What Preachers are NOW RECEIVED ON
TRIAL?

Ans. Charles W. M. Gilbert,	Thomas Cosford.
James Milner,	

Ques. IV. What Preachers have DIED since the last Conference ?

Ans. None.

Ques. V. Are there any OBJECTIONS to any of our Preachers ?

Ans. They were examined one by one.

Ques. VI. What Preachers have DESISTED FROM TRAVELLING ?

Ans. John Flannagan, who has desisted in a very abrupt and dishonourable manner ; Geo. B. Butcher.

Ques. VII. Who are the SUPERANNUATED PREACHERS ?

Ans. Thomas Whitehead,	Andrew Prindel,
Franklin Metcalf,	Daniel McMullen,
David Youmans,	Charles Wood,*
Wyatt Chamberlayne,*	Andrew Taylor,*
Ezra Adams,*	James Booth,*
James Wilson,	John Carroll.
William Brown,*	

* These have no claims on the funds raised for the support of Superannuated Preachers.

Ques. VIII. What Preachers have WITHDRAWN FROM THE CHURCH this year ?

Ans. John Flannagan.

Ques. IX. How are the Preachers STATIONED this year ?

Ans. As follows : viz.

I.—LONDON DISTRICT.

1. *Hamilton and Ancaster*,—John C. Davidson, Peter Kerr, William Coleman ; Andrew Prindel, superannuated.
2. *London*,—Adam Townley, Henry Byers.
3. *St. Thomas*,—James Norris, Charles W. Gilbert.

4. *Gosfield and Howard*,—Thomas McMullen, Stephen Miles.
5. *Oxford*,—Thomas Fawcett.
6. *Thames*,—John Baxter, James Milner.
7. *Brantford*,—Thomas Bevitt, Arkle Stokes Newbury; Thomas Whitehead, superannuated.
8. *Simcoe*,—Robert Corson, David Hardie.
9. *Dumfries*,—Edmund Stoney, Hugh Montgomery.

EPHRAIM EVANS, *Chairman*.

II.—TORONTO DISTRICT.

10. *Toronto City*,—Matthew Richey; Joseph Stinson, who is President of the Conference; Egerton Ryerson, who is our Editor; John Ryerson, who is our General Book Steward; Andrew Taylor, super., who resides in Toronto.
11. *Yonge Street*,—Alexander MacNab, one to be sent; James Wilson, superannuated.
12. *Newmarket*,—Edmund Shepherd, James Spencer.
13. *Toronto*,—Rowley Heyland, Simon Huntington.
14. *Nelson*,—Hamilton Biggar, John Law.
15. *Grimsby*,—James Musgrove, George Sanderson.
16. *St. Catherines*,—Samuel Belton, Samuel Rose.
17. *Stamford*,—Matthew Whiting, Joseph Messmore.
18. *Whitby*,—David Wright, John Lever; David Youmans, superannuated.
19. *Brock*,—Horace Dean, one to be sent.
20. *Mono*,—One to be sent.

JOHN RYERSON, *Chairman*.

III.—BAY OF QUINTE DISTRICT.

21. *Kingston*,—Matthew Lang.
22. *Bay of Quinte*,—C. Vandusen, W. H. Williams.
23. *Waterloo and Isle of Tanti*,—Ezra Healy, one to be sent; James Booth, superannuated.
24. *Hallowell*,—John Black, John G. Manly.
25. *Belleville*,—Edwy Ryerson.

26. *Cobourg*,—James Brock, William Steer; John Beatty, who is domestic Governor and Steward in the U. C. Academy; John Carroll, superannuated. 46.
47.
27. *Peterboro'*,—Gilbert Miller, Solomon Snyder, one wanted.
28. *Sidney*,—Lewis Warner, one wanted. 48.
29. *Murray*,—Cyrus R. Allison, Thomas Cosford, Daniel McMullen, superannuated.
30. *Colborne*,—William Haw. 49.

ANSON GREEN, *Chairman*. 50.

IV.—AUGUSTA DISTRICT. 51. 52.

31. *Prescott*,—Henry Wilkinson. 53.
32. *Brockville*,—Hannibal Mulkins. 54.
33. *Elizabethtown and Gananoque*,—Daniel Berney, one to be sent. 55.
34. *Augusta*,—James Currie, Vincent B. Howard; Charles Wood, superannuated. 56.
35. *Matilda*,—George Ferguson, Benj. Nankevell. 57.
36. *Rideau*,—William McFadden; William Brown, superannuated. 58.
37. *Perth*,—John McIntyre. 59.
38. *Crosby*,—William Young. 60.

HENRY WILKINSON, *Chairman*. 61.

V. OTTAWA DISTRICT.

39. *Bytown*,—Richard Jones. to
of
40. *Osgoode*,—Wellington Jeffers, who shall supply Bytown in the absence of Brother Jones. wa
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41. *Ottawa*,—Henry Shaler, William Willoughby; Franklin Metcalf, superannuated.
42. *Hull*,—George Goodson.
43. *Richmond*,—Asahel Hurlburt, George F. Playter.
44. *Mississippi*,—Alva Adams, Thomas Harmon.
45. *Clarendon*,—John Armstrong.

46. *Pembroke and Bonchire*,—Stephen Brownell.
 47. *Cumberland*,—One to be sent.

RICHARD JONES, *Chairman*.

VI.—MISSIONARY DISTRICT.

48. *Alderville*,—William Case. N. B. Brother Case is requested to visit the Missions generally during the year, as far as may be consistent with his duties to the above Mission.
 49. *Rice Lake*,—John Sunday.
 50. *Lake Superior*,—James Evans, Thomas Hurlburt.
 51. *Credit*,—Benjamin Slight.
 52. *Grand River*,—William Ryerson. Brother Ryerson is requested to exchange with the Brantford Preachers once or twice in the month, as his health may admit.
 53. *Muncey Town*,—Solomon Waldron.
 54. *Goderich*,—Jonathan Scott.
 55. *Warwick and Adelaide*,—Charles B. Goodrich.
 56. *Saugeeng*,—John Kellog Williston.
 57. *Lake Simcoe, Barrie, and Coldwater*,—Sylvester Hurlburt, one to be sent.
 58. *Guelph*,—George Poole.
 59. *Walpole*,—Cornelius Flummerfelt.
 60. *Amherstburg*,—William Scott.
 61. *St. Clair*,—John Douse.

Peter Jones resides at the Credit, and is requested to devote as much time as possible to the great work of translating the Sacred Scriptures into the Chippe-way language, and will visit the Indian Missions and Tribes under the direction of the Superintendent of Missions.

JOSEPH STINSON, *General Superintendent of Missions*, who resides in Toronto.

Ques. X. What is the NUMBER OF MEMBERS in our Societies ?

Ans. As follows: viz.

Circuits.	Members in Society.		
London	294	Matilda	477
St. Thomas	350	Rideau	231
Gosfield	181	Perth	152
Howard	175	Crosby	100
Oxford	173	Bytown	91
Thames	205	Osgoode	128
Brantford	458	Hull	122
Simcoe	287	Richmond	360
Dumfries	386	Ottawa	504
Ancaster	400	Mississippi	231
Toronto City	254	Clarendon	93
Yonge Street	697	Pembroke	30
Newmarket	360		
Toronto	463	MISSIONS.	
Nelson	503	Alderville	96
Hamilton	135	St. Clair	131
Grimsbý	308	Rice Lake	48
St. Catharines	252	Credit	122
Stamford	287	Grand River	91
Whitby	514	Muncey	138
Brock	144	Goderich	103
Kingston	180	Saugeeng	65
Bay of Quinte	632	Lake Simcoe, Cold } 323	
Waterloo	375	Water, and Barie }	
Hallowell	595	Guelph	97
Belleville	182	Walpole	64
Cobourg	468	French River	12
Peterboro'	352	Mud Lake and Bal- } 57	
Sidney	262	sam Lake	
Murray	479	Amherst Island	10
Brockville	50	Ise of Tanti	25
Elizabethtown	235	Marmora	53
Prescott and Augusta 540		Mono	60
			15,190

Ques. XI. What has been COLLECTED for the relief and support of the Superannuated Preachers, and the widows and children of those who have died in the work?

Ans. London	£3 15 6½	Waterloo ...	6 3 9
St. Thomas .	6 5 0	Hallowell ..	3 16 3
Gosfield	10 9 7½	Belleville ...	4 2 0
Howard	1 8 11½	Cobourg ...	5 0 0
Oxford	5 0 0	Peterboro' ..	4 5 0
Thames	1 2 5½	Sidney	5 0 0
Brantford ...	3 16 9	Murray	2 16 0
Simcœe	2 7 11	Brockville ..	0 15 0
Dumfries ...	3 0 0	Elizabethtown	2 12 4½
Ancaster	10 1 3	Prescott and }	2 15 0
Toronto City	16 0 0	Augusta .. }	
Yonge Street	6 7 7½	Matilda	14 12 7
Newmarket .	2 5 7½	Rideau	1 9 9
Toronto Cir't	4 0 0	Perth	2 17 9
Nelson	4 5 0	Crosby	1 6 3
Hamilton ...	5 5 0	Bytown	3 0 0
Grimsbv ...	2 12 0	Ottawa	1 11 11½
St. Catherines	5 4 4	Hull	0 15 0
Stamford ...	5 3 9	Richmond ..	1 1 0
Whitby	3 9 5	Mississippi ..	2 10 0
Brock	0 10 0	Osgoode	0 13 0
Kingston	9 9 3	Clarendon ..	0 7 6
Bay of Quinte	7 10 0	Pembroke ..	Nothing.

PREACHERS' ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

£	s.	d.	S. Miles	1 0 0	
E. Evans	1	5	0	T. Fawcett ..	1 0 0
E. Stoney ...	1	0	0	J. Baxter	1 0 0
A. S. Newbury	1	0	0	T. McMullen .	1 0 0
J. Norris ...	1	0	0	T. Bevitt	1 0 0
David Hardie .	1	0	0	T. Whitehead	1 0 0
J. K. Williston	1	0	0	R. Phelps	1 0 0
H. Byers	1	0	0	R. Corson ...	1 0 0

W. Coleman .	1	0	0	Jno. Black . . .	1	0	0
A. McNab ..	1	0	0	J. G. Manly ..	1	0	0
P. Kerr	1	0	0	J. Carroll	1	0	0
A. Prindel ...	1	0	0	H. Mulkins ..	1	0	0
Wm. Ryerson .	1	0	0	M. Richey ...	1	0	0
Eg'n Ryerson .	1	0	0	John Beatty ..	1	0	0
John Ryerson .	1	5	0	Geo. Poole ..	1	0	0
A. Townley ..	1	0	0	L. Warner ...	1	0	0
Wm. Scott ..	1	0	0	S. Snyder	1	0	0
Ed. Shepherd .	1	0	0	C. R. Allison .	1	0	0
G. Sanderson .	1	0	0	Wm. Steer ...	1	0	0
R. Heyland ..	1	0	0	D. McMullen .	1	0	0
S. Huntington .	1	0	0	H. Wilkinson .	1	0	0
H. Biggar	1	0	0	J. Brock	1	0	0
J. Law	1	0	0	D. Berney ...	1	0	0
J. C. Davidson	1	0	0	J. Currie	1	0	0
S. Belton	1	0	0	H. Shaler	1	0	0
J. Spencer ..	1	0	0	A. Hurlburt ..	1	0	0
J. Messmore .	1	0	0	Geo. Ferguson	1	0	0
J. Musgrove .	1	0	0	W. McFadden	1	0	0
M. Whiting ..	1	0	0	J. McIntyre ..	1	0	0
S. Rose	1	0	0	W. Young ...	1	0	0
H. Dean	1	0	0	R. Jones	1	0	0
J. Lever	1	0	0	A. Adams ...	1	0	0
J. Wilson	1	0	0	G. F. Playter .	1	0	0
D. Youmans .	1	0	0	F. Metcalf ...	1	0	0
C. Flummerfelt	1	0	0	T. Harmon ..	1	0	0
J. Neeland ...	1	0	0	G. Goodson ..	1	0	0
M. Lang	1	0	0	J. Armstrong .	1	0	0
C. Vandusen .	1	0	0	W. Willoughby	1	0	0
W. Williams .	1	0	0	V. B. Howard	1	0	0
Ezra Healy ..	1	0	0	S. Brownell ..	1	0	0
Wm. Haw ...	1	0	0	W. Case	1	0	0
C. Gilbert	1	0	0	J. Sunday ...	1	0	0
H. Montgomery	1	0	0	J. Douse	1	0	0
Wm. Griffis ..	1	0	0	G. Henry	1	0	0
Edwy Ryerson	1	0	0	S. Hurlburt ..	1	0	0

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Thames			
Brantford	2	13	5½
Simcoe	4	1	9
Dumfries	3	2	9½
Ancaster	3	8	1½
	9	10	5½

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Toronto City	£14	5	0
Yonge Street	17	8	6½
Newmarket,	6	0	0
Toronto,	5	0	0
Nelson,	9	0	0
Hamilton,	4	3	11
Grimsby,	2	15	0
St. Catharines,	5	6	4½
Stamford,	9	6	4½
Whitby,	4	5	3½
Brock,	0	15	0

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Kingston,	£9	8	8½
Bay of Quinte,	7	0	9
Waterloo,	6	9	7
Hallowell,	6	2	6
Belleville,	2	5	0
Cobourg,	6	8	2½
Peterboro,	3	10	0
Sidney,	3	7	5
Murray,	5	12	10

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Brockville,	£0	8	0
Elizabethtown,	4	3	8½
Prescott and Augusta,	3	18	0
Matilda,	6	3	8
Rideau,	3	0	0
Perth,	3	3	2
Crosby,	2	1	0

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Bytown,	£4	10	0
Osgoode,	1	5	0
Ottawa,	4	9	5
Hull,	1	1	1½
Richmond,	1	12	0
Mississippi,	4	13	11
Clarendon,	3	14	8
Pembroke,			Nothing.
			<hr/>
		21	6 1½
Total,	£245	6	4

Ques. XIV. How has this money been EXPENDED ?

Ans. MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS :

To Brother Edwy Ryerson, on account of family affliction	£30	0	0
To Brother Ezra Healy on account of personal and family afflictions	20	0	0

To aid deficient Circuits—

Brockville Station	16	0	0
London Circuit	7	10	0
St. Thomas	18	10	0
Thames	20	0	0
Simcoe	11	10	0
Ancaster	15	0	0
Howard	8	0	0
Oxford	4	8	4
Nelson	11	18	0
St. Catharines	17	0	0
Whitby	24	0	0
Elizabethtown	25	0	0
Crosby	16	0	0
			<hr/>
	£245	6	4

Ques. XV. What are the **STANDING COMMITTEES** FOR THE PRESENT YEAR?

- Ans. 1. A Committee to revise the course of study pursued by young men on trial, and to report to the next Conference, consisting of the members of the Book Committee.
2. A Committee on the subject of the Clergy Reserves, consisting of the members of the Book Committee.
3. **THE BOOK COMMITTEE**,—consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, Chairmen of Districts, William Case, William Ryerson, the Superintendents of the Toronto City Station, Yonge Street, Nelson, Toronto, Newmarket, Whitby, Kingston, and Hamilton Circuits; five of whom, in the monthly and ordinary meetings, shall form a quorum.
4. **THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE**,—consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, and the Chairmen of Districts,—to make preparations for the celebration of the Centenary of Methodism.
5. **THE CONTINGENT FUND COMMITTEE**,—to consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference, Chairmen of Districts, Superintendents of Murray, Sydney, and Belleville Circuits, and the following gentlemen, viz: B. Flint, Jun., Asa Youmans, Wm. Ketcheson, Benj. Ketcheson, J. P. Roblin, Charles Biggar, J. M. Rorison, and John Counter, Esquires,—to meet in Belleville on the second Tuesday in June, 1840, at 2 o'clock, P. M.
6. **THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES**,—consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, Superintendent of Missions, Chairmen of Districts, Rev. Wm.

Case, Preachers resident in the City of Toronto, and the following gentlemen, viz :

J. R. Armstrong, M. P. P.,	} City of Toronto.
John Beatty, Jr.,	
James Foster,	
J. Dunn,	
G. Walker,	
G. H. Dettlor, M. P. P.,	<i>Brighton.</i>
G. Brouse, J. P.,	<i>Matilda.</i>
James Dougall, J. P.,	<i>Hallowell.</i>
John Counter, Esquire,	} <i>Kingston.</i>
J. M. Rorison, "	
L. Houghton,	<i>Brockville.</i>
Wm. Brown, J. P.,	<i>Wolford.</i>
B. Flint, Jun., J. P.,	<i>Belleville.</i>
J. P. Roblin, J. P.,	<i>Ameliasburg.</i>
C. Biggar, J. P.,	<i>Murray.</i>
J. A. Keeler, J. P.,	<i>Colborne.</i>
J. W. Williams, J. P.,	<i>Oakville.</i>
William Fitz-Moore,	<i>Whitby.</i>
James Gage,	} <i>Hamilton.</i>
Edward Jackson,	
T. Bickle,	
Geo. Strobridge,	
Hugh Wilson, J. P.,	<i>Saltfleet.</i>
B. Corwin,	<i>Stamford.</i>
A. Davidson, P. M.,	<i>Niagara.</i>
A. Sharp,	<i>Brantford.</i>
G. Wrong, J. P.,	<i>Malahide.</i>
Jno. Scatchard, Esq.,	<i>London.</i>
C. H. Johnson, J. P.,	<i>Longueil.</i>

The Editor of the Guardian to be Secretary, with authority to call meetings of the Committee, five of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES, TO BE HELD IN BALTIMORE, MAY 1, 1840. The President and Secretary of the Conference and the Book Steward.

REPRESENTATIVE TO ENGLAND.—The Reverend Egerton Ryerson was appointed the Representative of this Connexion to proceed to England, should the Book Committee deem it expedient, to advocate and maintain our just rights and interests before Her Majesty's Government and the Imperial Parliament in respect to the Clergy Reserves.

CENTENARY OF METHODISM.

Resolved.—1. That the Conference, gratefully recognizing the unspeakable excellency and usefulness of Wesleyan Methodism, deem it proper and beneficial, in unison with our Fathers and Brethren in Great Britain and in the United States of America, to hold a *Centenary Celebration of its institution* for the purposes of devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, and the promotion and extension of the great object at which Methodism aims.

2. That on *Friday, the twenty-fifth day of October 1839*, appropriate *Religious Services* shall be held in all our chapels and congregations; for the purposes of calling to mind the great things the Lord hath done for us as a people; of solemnly recognizing our obligations and responsibilities to our Heavenly Father; and of imploring on behalf of ourselves and of the whole Wesleyan Methodist Family throughout the world, a continuance and increase of religious happiness, unity and prosperity.

3. That in addition to the Religious Services connected with the Celebration of the Centenary of Methodism, there shall be a *general pecuniary Con-*

tribution, to be applied to the following purposes and in the following ratio, *viz*:—That five tenths of all we collect be employed for the purpose of forming a fund for the support of our superannuated Preachers—two tenths to the Book Room—two tenths to furnishing Parsonage houses, and one tenth to be left at the disposal of the Conference for Missionary and other purposes.

4. The TERMS of the Subscriptions shall be as follows, *viz*:—All sums of £25 and upwards in four annual instalments; all sums of £12 10s and upwards in three annual instalments; all sums under £12 10s. in two annual instalments. The first instalment to be paid on or before the 1st day of February, 1840, and the subsequent instalments to be paid on the first day of the same Month in each ensuing year.

5. The Book Steward shall be the *General Treasurer*, to whom all monies are to be paid by the Chairmen of Districts who shall be *Treasurers of the Districts* to which they respectively belong, and to whom the Superintendents of Circuits, as *Circuit Treasurers*, shall be accountable for the monies received on their several Circuits.

6. *Records* of the names, subscriptions and payments of the several contributors shall be kept as follows, *viz*:—

1. In the *Christian Guardian* from time to time as reported by the Circuit or District Treasurers or by the General Treasurer.
2. Each Superintendent of a Circuit shall provide or be furnished with a Centenary Circuit Record or Book, in which shall be entered the name and contribution of each Subscriber.
3. Each Chairman of a District shall keep a similar District Record, to be filled up from the Records of the Circuits included in his District.
4. One large and suitably prepared Book, to serve as a General Centenary Record, shall be filled up

in the manner already specified, from the District Records, and shall be kept in the Book Room as a permanent Book of Reference in relation to the Centenary Commemoration of Wesleyan Methodism.

7. That a *Deputation* be appointed to visit the principal Towns and Villages and Neighbourhoods of the Province, for the purpose of carrying out the great object of our Centenary Celebration.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved,—That while this Conference has felt itself bound to express its sentiments on the question of an Ecclesiastical Establishment in this Province, and our constitutional and religious rights and privileges, and our determination to maintain them, we disclaim any intention to interfere with the merely secular party politics of the day;—we are resolved to attend with greater diligence ourselves, as well as to urge with increased earnestness upon the people committed to our charge, a more diligent attention to the means of spiritual edification established among us, and which, under the Divine blessing, have so materially contributed to the stability, increase, and usefulness of the Methodist Connexion throughout the world;—we also repeat our determination that the Christian Guardian shall be properly a religious and literary Journal, to explain our doctrines and institutions, to defend them when necessary; to vindicate our character, if expedient, when misrepresented; to publish the operations of Christian benevolence, and the triumphs of the Gospel throughout the world; together with a summary of civil and general intelligence.

Resolved,—That the members of this Conference, deeply impressed with the supreme importance of the great scriptural object, for the accomplishment of which

God raised up the venerable Founder of Methodism, will, in humble dependence on the Lord the Spirit, devote themselves with renewed zeal and simplicity of purpose to promote the spread of scriptural truth and holiness within the appointed sphere of their ministerial labour.

Resolved,—That this Conference presents its cordial thanks to the Rev. Mr. Alder for his interesting communications on the subject of the Centenary Celebration of Methodism in Great Britain and Ireland.

Resolved,—That the Rev. Mr. Alder be respectfully requested to furnish for publication a copy of the excellent sermon which he delivered before the Conference on Sunday morning of the 16th instant.

Resolved,—That the Rev. Mr. Alder having represented that the *second, fifth and sixth* resolutions passed by this Conference in June 1837, on the subject of certain grants made by His late Majesty to the Wesleyan Missionary Committee out of the Casual and Territorial Revenue, interferes with the usages of our British brethren and materially retards their interests, this Conference rescind the same.

Ques. XVI. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?

Ans. At BELLEVILLE, District of Hastings; commencing on the second Wednesday in June, 1840, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JOSEPH STINSON,
President.

EGERTON RYERSON,
Secretary.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS
OF THE
CONFERENCE
TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH
IN CANADA.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN :

By the good Providence of God, we have been permitted to meet in our Annual Assembly, for the oversight and adjustment of the interests and affairs of our beloved Zion. We are grateful for the mercies and blessings of the past year; and we again affectionately address you, in our collective capacity, for the suggestion of those principles and duties which we deem pre-eminently and unceasingly important.

In the recollection of the events of the past year, it behoves us to acknowledge, with gratitude, our renewed obligations to Almighty God. While we have to mourn, with hope, over the loss of some of our beloved people, employed in the defence of our government and country, we are thankful that foreign invasions have been but few and temporary, and that civil insurrection has not been re-attempted. Spiritually, also, we have not been forgotten by our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit has been graciously shed upon many parts of "the field;" the ministrations of divine truth have been rendered successful; the prayers and intercessions of many of our people have been heard and answered; the Church has been edified; and perishing sinners reclaimed and saved. We, therefore, feel that gratitude and love demand a fresh

and unreserved dedication of ourselves to the service and glory of God.

Dear Brethren,—We desire to remind you of the dignity, importance, and duties of your religious vocation. God has redeemed us to himself that we might be a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He has united us in Christian fellowship that we might mutually assist and benefit each other, and more effectually promote the salvation of souls. Let us act, then, in consonance with these facts. Though surrounded and allured by the things that are temporal, let us look at the things that are spiritual and eternal. The tabernacles we inhabit shall soon crumble into dust. Our probationary period shall very soon close. From the place we inhabit and from our present means of intellectual and moral improvement we shall soon be summoned. "What manner of persons, then, ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness!" Surely Christianity should be our joy and crown. In the possession of a divine attestation of the forgiveness of sins; in a participation of "the divine nature;" and in the fruition of "all joy and peace through believing," let us go forward to higher discoveries, to greater enjoyments, to more extensive and efficient exertions in the service of God. So shall we be "burning and shining lights;" partaking largely ourselves of divine favors; and instrumentally diffusing throughout the land that scriptural "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Influenced by these principles, we should studiously avoid the allurements and excitements of the world; and cultivate and display the spirit and tempers of "pilgrims and strangers." Whatever stations have been allotted to us in the arrangements of divine Providence; whatever duties may devolve upon us in our several relations, we should constantly remember that every thing is designed to be subordinate and tributary

to our religious improvement, happiness and usefulness. "We are not our own:" we are the people of God: we are citizens of heaven. Let us, then, more than ever place our "affections on things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Having "our conversation in heaven;" and "walking in the light as Christ is in the light," we shall "have fellowship one with another," and our path "shine more and more unto the perfect day."

You will not, dear brethren, neglect the institutions of divine worship, both public and private. Closet devotion and domestic worship should precede and conclude the labors of each day. The sacred Scriptures should be daily, devoutly and studiously read. The Sabbath,—the holy of the Lord, should be observed and honored, as a season of rest, of fervent devotion, and of religious improvement. The Sanctuary of the Most High should be regularly attended as the habitation of his house, the place where his honor dwelleth, and his choicest blessings are liberally bestowed. To stimulate to these duties then are powerful motives. Without the blessing of God nothing is wise, nothing strong, nothing safe, nothing good. He alone can conduct us through the labyrinths of life. Only his grace can support and console us in circumstances of distress, bereavement, and sorrow. Let us then approach Him in the means he has appointed, through His Son and by His Holy Spirit, and he will "do in us and for us exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think."

While anxious and diligent to secure your own salvation, you will not, we trust, be unmindful of "the wealth of others." The Sabbath School opens a door of access to the rising generation. The Bible Society affords you an opportunity of aiding in the circulation of the Word of Life. The Tract Society supplies you with means of usefulness to many. The Missionary Society provides a medium through which you may

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be eminently instrumental in the universal diffusion of truth and righteousness. In our own Church, in other respects, there are both occasion and scope for your liberality and piety. The superannuated preachers and deficient circuits have a claim on our flocks to which, we hope, there will be a hearty and adequate response. Influenced by Christian principles and motives, you will find it a pleasure and a benefit to subserve all those purposes and to supply all this lack, according to the ability which God has given. The financial improvements of this year are, we hope, but a prelude of still more appropriate exertion in future.

We have sincere pleasure in informing you of the uninterrupted and increased efficiency of the UPPER CANADA ACADEMY. The number of students during the present year; their creditable and gratifying proficiency in learning; the talents, exertions, and usefulness of the reverend and highly esteemed Principal, and of the subordinate Teachers, male and female; the spontaneous public and private testimonies in its behalf; and the unusually interesting and encouraging public annual examination of the present year, unitedly and forcibly recommend the institution to our members and friends and to the province at large. We fondly hope it will continue to occupy an honorable and prominent place among the literary institutions of the country, and exert a most beneficial influence on all classes of society.

We have sustained, during the past year, a numerical loss of one hundred and thirty-eight. Though this may easily be accounted for by the changes to which our Societies in these times are especially incident; yet it should awaken in each minister and member a spirit of anxious inquiry respecting his personal piety and zealous devotedness to the service of God. Our common and important end is the prosperity and peace of Zion; and the means of accomplishing it

should be constantly remembered: "Not by might or by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." With sincere self-abasement and sorrow on account of our past unfaithfulness and deficiencies, let us afresh and unreservedly consecrate ourselves, in the true spirit of faith, of self-denial, of patience, and of diligence, to the work assigned us, and, assuredly, our "labour shall not be in vain in the Lord."

To the intended celebration of the Centenary of Methodism we wish particularly to direct your attention. Eternity alone can unfold the advantages conferred upon us, upon the Church, and upon the world, by the glorious revival of religion, of which the revered and ever memorable JOHN WESLEY was the divinely-selected and qualified instrument. We should not forget what God has done in former times for our fathers and through them for us; and, therefore, we cordially concur with our Fathers and Brethren in Great Britain and Ireland, and in the adjoining Union, in the conviction that the present year is an era in the history of Methodism which affords a peculiar and appropriate opportunity of commemorating so important an event as the formation of the Methodist Society. In doing this, our primary object should be our religious improvement and usefulness by means of suitable *Religious Services*. The day appointed for such services is *Friday the 25th day of October, 1839*, on which the Methodist Societies throughout the world are to be simultaneously assembled for worshipping, praising, and glorifying the God of our Fathers. On that day we trust a cloud of hallowed incense will ascend to Heaven through the atoning and speaking blood of Christ, and the selectest blessings of the Most High, the Holy Spirit of promise, richly descend on the length and breadth of our spiritual Israel, and result in its increasing unity, consolidation, and prosperity. In connexion with these services it is intended to have a

general pecuniary contribution, as a practical thank-offering, to be applied to various purposes of Christian benevolence and usefulness in association with our beloved Methodism. Of these purposes, and of the several arrangements relating to the Contribution, you will receive ample information through the Minutes of the Conference and our official Journal. Considering the occasion of these collections; the soul-stirring facts and reflections it calls to mind; and the excellence and importance of the objects contemplated,—we trust the response of our beloved people to the intended appeal will be cordial, prompt, and appropriate. Our Fathers and Brethren in England have done nobly; and we, it is hoped, will so imitate them as suitably to express our gratitude to God and convey to posterity a due sense of the greatness and value of our Christian fellowship, privileges, and blessings.

Our CENTENARY CONFERENCE has been truly and emphatically pleasant and profitable. We have had to record no diminution of our numbers by death. And we have been especially gratified and profited by the presence, pulpit ministrations, and Conferential counsels and communications of our highly respected and beloved friend and brother, the Rev. Robert Alder, one of the Wesleyan Missionary Secretaries and representative of the British Wesleyan Conference. From the spirit and tenor of his intercourse with us, and of our own deliberations and decisions, we fervently hope and trust that, under the sanction and blessing of Almighty God, the *Union* of both Connexions will be more intimate and reciprocally beneficial, and that the hundredth year of Wesleyan Methodism will be preëminently prosperous and preparatory to abundant future good.

“Now, unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God

our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

Signed by order and in behalf of the Conference,

JOSEPH STINSON, *President.*

EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary.*

Hamilton, U. C., June 22, 1839.

[*N. B.*—The Address of the British Conference, referred to in the following Address, was read from a copy of the last British Minutes belonging to the Rev. Mr. Alder, and which he could not part with. No *manuscript* of the Address having been forwarded, and no other copy of the last British Minutes having arrived in this Province, will account for the absence of the last Address of the British Conference in these Minutes.]

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

REV. FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—

We thankfully acknowledge by the hands of our respected friend, the Rev. R. Alder, the receipt of your Parental Address, dated Bristol, August, 1838.

We are grateful for the interest you express in the settlement of our chapel property—although that question is unfortunately still undecided; and for your counsels and admonitions.

The last, as well as the preceding year, has been a season of excitement and trial in this Province; but we are happy to be able to say that the Members of our Societies have sustained their long established character for loyalty, and been prompt in their response to every call of civil and military duty.

We rejoice that the present aspect of our public affairs is more peaceful and encouraging; and that there

is now solid ground to hope for future peace and prosperity in this important portion of Her Majesty's North American dominions.

The circumstances of this province during the past year have been as unfavourable to the spiritual prosperity of our Societies as to the general interests of the country. Emigration from the province has been considerable; in consequence of which we have sustained a numerical decrease of one hundred and thirty eight, although very considerable accessions have taken place on many of the circuits from actual conversions. We are thankful, however, to be able to add that there has been an increase in our Missionary Collections, during the year, and in all our connexional funds; and never were our Societies, as a whole, more established and united than at the present time.

We have much satisfaction in again repeating the expression of our high sense of the labours of our esteemed and excellent friend and brother, the Rev. Joseph Stinson, in his office as President of the Conference, and Superintendent of Missions during the past year, and during the present session; and we beg to record our estimate of his judgment, talents and worth by requesting his reappointment to those important offices during the ensuing year.

Our Academy during the year has continued in a state of increasing efficiency and success; and has acquired a high and influential character in the estimation of the Public, under the management of the highly gifted Principal—The Rev. Matthew Richey, A. M.

During our present deliberations we have been favoured with the presence and counsels of our pious and valued friend and brother, the Rev. Mr. Luther, of Montreal; and not a little have we been gratified and profited by the presence and ministrations amongst us of your Representative, the Rev. Robert Alder, one of the general Secretaries of your Missionary

Society—in whom we recognize an old and honoured friend, and by whose various communications we have been much delighted and edified. The several subjects which Mr. Alder has brought under our consideration for adjustment, will doubtless be communicated to you by him ; and we need scarcely add that we shall be happy to receive him in any relation which you may think proper to appoint him.

We have read and heard with great satisfaction of your preparatory meetings for the Centenary celebration of Wesleyan Methodism ; we are making preparations to imitate, in some humble degree, your example, and to participate with you in the interesting and important services and efforts of that eventful celebration.

After a laborious and harmonious session we return to our several fields of labour, resolved to devote ourselves in humble dependence upon Him whose we are, and without whose blessing nothing is wise, or good or strong, to our one and great work of spreading scriptural holiness over the land.

Signed in behalf and by order of the Conference,

EGERTON RYERSON, *Secretary.*

Hamilton, U. C. June 22nd, 1839.