



# Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1870.

## RECENT ADVANCES OF AMERICAN METHODISM IN THE SCHOOL, THE CAMP, AND THE COURT.

The numerous tributes paid to the memory of the lamented Dr. McClintock, deceased in New York, by the most respectable of the United States secular Journals has naturally suggested to us anew a fact of which in one way or another we have frequently been reminded of late. That fact is that within the last few years Methodism in the United States has in its social standing, scholarly attainments, and its political influence been rapidly approaching a place in the front rank of the great Republic. Time was, and that not long since, when even fairly educated men were scarce among the American Methodists, both in the ministry and out of it. We ourselves can well remember the period when the noble hearted, the saintly, the far-seeing Wilbur Fisk was amidst countless obstacles and discouragements fighting the good fight at the head of the incipient movement among the American Methodists in behalf of a high Christian education. How feeble that movement sometimes appeared to be. How little likely ever to attain commanding success. How undisciplined and general was the contempt among the older, wealthier and better educated Christian communities of the country for this Methodist educational day of small and feeble things! How little any one dreamt that within the space of thirty years it would be possible for the plain and comparatively poor people called Methodists to dot the land as they have done with Academies, Seminaries, and Colleges, many of them of high reputation overflowing with pupils and reserved for a future full of the promise of great things.

Yet surprising as are the results already accomplished by American Methodism in the department of the higher Christian education, and still more surprising as are the probabilities of future achievements in the same field, by the same body, nothing has been done, nothing will be effected, but what might have been and might be anticipated. For probably there never has existed a Christian denomination of any considerable size that has numbered within its ranks a larger proportion of men highly gifted by nature, endowed with vast intellectual force and energy, than American Methodism. It required no prophet to foresee that whenever these men should come forth to feel the necessity of calling to their aid the manifold appliances of a high and rich mental culture, that they would not long call in vain, and their zeal, their enthusiasm, their practicalness, and remarkable aptitudes for organization and administration would stand them in as good stead in the educational as in the more purely evangelical sphere. Much as we admire the American Methodists for what they have already effected in educational matters, we believe they have only as it were just entered on the work in which they are destined so greatly to distinguish themselves. In the coming fifty years they will infinitely surpass what they have hitherto accomplished.

But if the American Methodists have been pressing ardently forward on the educational course, they have been also steadily rising in the social scale. In all the great centres of trade and commerce in the Union their clever business men have become amassing wealth, and some of them are becoming millionaires. Almost daily a larger number of the men who head the great industrial and commercial enterprises of the day are falling under Methodist influences. Perhaps, however, the rapid advance of Methodism in political influence in the United States within a short time past is more noteworthy than its progress in other directions referred to. The fact of having attained such influence is patent and undeniable. The number of Methodists occupying commanding positions in public life is already great, and will without doubt, soon become much greater. President Grant is well known to be an adherent of Methodism; and Mrs. Grant is a member of the Methodist church. Chief Justice Chase is also said to be of Methodist predilections. The late Mr. Stanton Secretary of War during the great Civil contest was a Methodist. The late Anson Burlingame, Chinese Plenipotentiary to Europe and the United States, was a Methodist. The present American Ambassador at Berlin is a Methodist minister. The successor of Jefferson Davis in the United States Senate is a colored Methodist preacher. In fact the number of men in public life in the United States belonging to Methodism is quite large, and ought to be large, for Methodism is numerically very strong in many of the States, and comprises a large portion of their most intelligent and virtuous citizens.

The services rendered to the Federal cause during the war of secession by Northern Methodism were very valuable. President Lincoln publicly testified, during that awful struggle, that no denomination in the United States sent so many men to the front, so many nurses to the hospitals, or so many prayers to Heaven for the salvation of the Union as the Methodists. Three circumstances, taken together, account for the facts gratefully recognized by Mr. Lincoln. First, the Methodists are, as we have said, very numerous in the United States, especially in the Western part of the Union; they had men to send. Secondly, the war, when it assumed an Anti-Slavery character on the part of the North, appealed strongly to the religious feelings of the Methodist people. Thirdly, the Northern Methodists shared, in a large degree, that common characteristic of Methodists of every age and country, called loyalty. Everywhere loyalty has been a prominent feature in the general character of Methodism; and everywhere, upon the whole, that feature has been an element of power. That has been pre-eminently the case in the Northern States.

Will American Methodism suffer spiritual loss from this increase of learning, social influence and political power accruing to it? There is a possibility that such a result may ensue. But we trust it will not be so. Temptation and peril encompass every stage of life and development, personal and corporate; and, of course, the watchfulness and prayerfulness that were indispensable to the safety of Methodism in the days of its penury and obscurity, will be equally indispensable for its salvation in the time of its wealth and greatness. Let us hope these qualities will ever remain in lively and successful exercise within the American Methodist fold. Let us pray that our splendid Sister Church, having so grand a field in which to labour for our common Lord, may bear the burden and heat of her midday, at least as courageously, as unshrinkingly, and as faithfully as she performed the task allotted to her in the childhood and early youth of her marvellous career. We are encouraged to believe that God is yet with her in the plenitude of His strength. The sacred oracles have not grown dumb within her courts. Her sanctuary lamps are not faintly flickering for want of oil. The altar-fires are not smouldering low in their ashes within her temples. There is light, and life, and flame, and power in her holy places. May they remain there till time shall be no more!

J. R. N.

## CONNEXIONAL FUNDS, &c.

MR. EDITOR.—My reply to "An Old Subscriber" will require more space than his questions; but I trust the importance of the subject will be deemed a sufficient apology, and secure its unabridged publication.

## CIRCUIT AID AND CONTINGENT FUND.

HOME MISSION FUND.

To each and every member of the Wesleyan Church, and of our Congregations:—*Arise! for this matter belongeth unto thee.*

The grants to the poorer circuits and to the mission stations were made from a fund whose character and objects constitutionally entitled it to the designation of CIRCUIT AID AND HOME MISSION FUND; but which was, unfortunately, introduced under the name of the Contingent Fund, and thus veiling its importance and reducing its influence.

The Law-office, Governmental department, and Legislative-hall term was calculated to obscure its character, and weaken its claims upon the sympathy and support of our people. So, some thought a very small sum would amply suffice for the purchase of pens and paper, red tape and postage—the items of expenditure they imagined it was meant to cover?

True, its nature and aims were published in the Minutes, and met the eye of a few—in the P. W., and met the eye of many; but the majority of its readers seem to have been controlled by a convenient prompter, who, as each note of information relating thereto met their eyes, whispered, "skip it!" in most instances he was promptly obeyed.

Its income from the circuits was very trifling. Its vital importance to the interests of religion, the welfare of souls, in sustaining the ministers of Christ on needy circuits, and in opening new fields of mission work, carrying the gospel of salvation into desolate and sparsely-settled districts of our continent, and the necessity of its being as soon as we feared. Thanks to the Committee in the Fatherland; and thanks to our faithful Financial agent, in this; his lucid statements of our position, and forcible appeals on behalf of the exigencies of the work in these Provinces, doubtless contributed to secure the favorable consideration of the Committee, who kindly suspended the act of curtailing.

But the delayed reduction at length became; and now, the "Grant from home" is becoming, not beautifully but alarmingly less, year after year. It will be seen, therefore, that our resources from that quarter do not consist in gold mines or mines—that our Fund, from "grants" are given to the brethren, is in a sinking condition, and depresses the spirits of ministers and their wives. Unless something is done by our people here, worthy of themselves, and proportionate to the responsibilities of their stewardship under God, to make it more adequate for meeting the just and reasonable demands upon it, we are in a bad case. It is impossible to foresee all the painful consequences which must ensue. I speak as to wise men: judge ye what I say.

## THE HOME MISSION FUND.

1. That a fund be formed, the object of which shall be the sustenance of the work on those more recently occupied fields of labour, which may with propriety be regarded as Mission Stations; and its extension to distant portions of territory, yet unoccupied by our agencies.

2. That the sources of income for the Fund shall be—(1.) A Public Collection to be made at the Home Mission Meetings, which shall be held in all the principal preaching places throughout the connection. (2.) Donations made for the promotion of the object contemplated by the Fund, and (3.) The interest on moneys vested in the name of the Committee for the management of the "Home Mission Fund" shall consist of the President, Co-Delegates, and Secretary of the Conference; the Chairman of Districts; one Layman appointed by the Conference; and one Layman to be elected by the Circuit Stewards of each District, at the time of the annual District Meeting.

N. B.—For the present, the probable income of the Home Mission Fund shall be distributed by the Committee of the Contingent Fund.

These two Funds have the same sources of income which the old Fund had, with the addition of the yearly collection, subscription and donations now sought for the benefit of the Home Mission Department. It may be well to note the objects contemplated by the Contingent part of the Circuit Aid Fund. It is meant to provide for Conference Printing and Stationery, President's and Co-Delegates' travelling expenses, Supply for Circuits, in case of destitution of the Ministers—Expenses—Minister's, or member of family; Medical Attendance, where charge has been made. To meet such claims it has been customary to reserve a sum, before making apportionments for ordinary Circuit charges—the sum has rarely, if ever, been sufficient to meet the claims in full—but has paid only a percentage of from 13 to 75 per cent. in the cases of affliction.

This year we have reserved nothing for any of the above items, but have appropriated the whole of the probable income towards aiding Circuits in paying ordinary expenditure. It will be seen, therefore, with what force and argument an appeal should be made, by the Ministers and Stewards, to the people and friends, to advance in the sum of their support to this fund.—At the lowest estimate, \$500 extra should be raised to meet the probable claims, for which there is nothing reserved. Nor must it be lost sight of, that if the apportionments made shall be paid, the estimated unprovided-for deficiencies on Circuits—sparsely-settled in New England and elsewhere—amount to an exclusive of \$1,427.

Men and brethren, suffer me to ask—cannot something be done to raise the needed \$500 for contingencies, and also to increase the income considerably beyond the estimate, that there may be some funds in hand, at the next Conference, for the reduction of the large and dreadful deficiencies of this year on starting our brethren in the face? Yearly collections are taken up in all circuits and stations; but we expect the principal part of the receipts to come from the town and city—self-supporting circuits.

From the C. A. & C. Fund the Removal expenses are paid to dependent circuits and likewise to Home Missions; and, if some come among the poor, and hold on the hearts and resources of our people it should have, the grants for removals to missions might be saved to this fund, and go to help brethren on needy circuits. No grants for removals are made to self-supporting circuits, nor to dependent circuits whose quarterly meetings invite men and get the men they invite—the parties inviting must pay. An important part of the assets or income of this fund is—

## THE GRANT FROM HOME.

When we were formed into a Conference the Parent-body did not withhold its help—an amount of aid was continued, but with the understanding that it would be gradually lessened, and so be withdrawn altogether. About two-fifths of this grant goes to New England and the Bermuda; about one-seventh of the balance is required to cover our removal expenses. If we were not extending our bounds, increasing our circuits and men; opening mission stations, in time to become circuits and centres of influence, nothing else than a withdrawal of this aid could be looked for. But we are helping ourselves to such extent, that the continuance of the original grant would be an excellent way for the carrying out of the grand object of Methodism—to spread Scriptural holiness through the land.

Our Conference started with seventy circuits and missions—not more than eight were self-supporting. We have now on our Minutes about one hundred and thirty-two, and about twenty-eight are self-sustaining. Then we had seventy-nine ministers and probationers; now we have one hundred and thirty. We have built parsonages and churches, paid off debts on Church property, &c. Our payments to the Foreign Missions have been continued,—in 1865 it was \$11,285, in 1869, \$11,340, less in both cases some local expenses.

It is just to observe, that the reduction of this grant would be a war-cry without as soon as we feared. Thanks to the Committee in the Fatherland; and thanks to our faithful Financial agent, in this; his lucid statements of our position, and forcible appeals on behalf of the exigencies of the work in these Provinces, doubtless contributed to secure the favorable consideration of the Committee, who kindly suspended the act of curtailing.

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## CHILDREN'S FUND.

Given the number of children's allowances to be provided for; the circuits and stations are then made liable for the full sum required,—in proportion to their several returns of membership. It has been found that 55 members should raise the allowance of one child—\$40. The self-supporting part of the full amount chargeable to them. But, in the nature of things it is simply utopian

to suppose that the poorer circuits and the stations actually raise the sums apportioned to them by this rule of membership tax. Yet the claims of all the children are paid by the Fund? How is this done? See the plan to which we are compelled to resort. This year we take from the Contingent and Circuit Aid Fund an amount equal to the whole sum the Home Missions are liable for—and also such other amounts as may be required to aid dependent circuits in making up their several sums. In this way the claims of all the children, those of superannuated and deceased ministers included, are paid. Let it be remembered, that the help from home is being diminished; and it must be obvious to all, (except those who will not see), that unless our people adopt more liberal views; and give systematically, and according to their ability, our Connexion Funds will soon be—where good Dr. Knight expressed his fears we would be some years hence be taken up under the banner of the itinerancy, to the welcome and the rewards of the heavenly rest—viz.: in a state of bankruptcy. It is probable a brother minister, who is devising some kind of reform, or improved method, for raising the children's allowance will report himself and his plan in the P. W., for the thoughtful consideration of its readers.

The Home and Carriage question will be answered shortly. A HELPER.

## ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

Parliamentary Items—Relief for the Bishops Reorganizing the Irish Church—The Council at Rome—The winter.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The events of the past fortnight are few and unimportant. The Parliamentary reports are full of notices and motions, new Bills are being introduced and several with old familiar titles are re-appearing, but hardly any of them will await their turn in the present session. The Government promises considerable reduction in the expenditure for Army and Navy, and up to the present there has been no division or testing question to show whether Mr. Gladstone yet retains the grand majority of the past two years. The difficulties in the second reading of the Irish Bill is now taking place, but is not so unkindling much enthusiasm and the people of England care not to trouble themselves about the details of the measure, but implicitly trust in Mr. Gladstone to do the right thing, and the best for Ireland.

The Education Bill is to be read a second time next week. Its general principles command almost universal consent, but a few points are being raised, and some important amendments will be moved, backed by strong organizations, when the Bill is passing through its future stages. Our Connexion authorities evidently approve of the Bill, and it is yet doubtful whether the great Committee upon Education will be again convened. Some of its provisions must be modified, or we shall have Denominational schools, and the school system maintained, the children of parents, differing in principle from doctrines taught, and protesting against the rate; can yet be compelled to attend.

Your readers may possibly have heard that the Bishops of the English Church are said to be hard-worked and over-taxed men. They confirm the statement, and refer to large Dioceses, and the supervision of hundreds of parishes, and the duties of Convocation—and attendance on Parliamentary business. Two modes of relief are practicable, the first that of creating more Bishops which is now being adopted in several instances. The dignitaries are styled Suffragan Bishops and take their title from some important town in the Diocese. They are strictly subordinate to the Bishop, and are appointed to be. It is understood that some of the Bishops ought to any such division of either the emoluments or title, and fear that the new order may in time prove not a little unmanageable and troublesome. Another mode of relief is proposed from without the Episcopal ranks, and is in the form of a Bill introduced into the House of Commons, intended to relieve their Parliamentary duties, and give them the opportunity as after this session will be the privilege of their brethren of the Dissatisfied Irish Church; of attending solely to the spiritual interests of their people. The Bill may not pass just now, but it is one of the signs of the times.

The reorganization of the Irish Church has provoked a storm of protest, and much tact and management required to prevent collision. The Bishop's power of veto has been challenged, and not without great difficulty has this point been conceded to the Right Reverend Prelate. The Laity appear willing to render help in the great work to which the Church is called, but claim as their undoubted right a full share in the management of the Church, and the re-constituted governing power is confined to a great majority of these Clergymen have been accustomed to absolute control in all matters pertaining to their Church it is a new experience to be compelled to sit and vote with the Laity. They have yet very much to learn in the working of voluntary associations, and the direction of a Church entirely free from State control.

It is not necessary to report from the great Council at Rome. It is slow work that they perform at best, even when the way is quite clear and the matter one of entire indifference to any parties but themselves, the mode of procedure is dreadfully circuitous and tedious. The great dogmas of Papal infallibility makes but little progress in Rome. There is a powerful banner, denoting the question, and the Holy Father whose heart is set upon trying his purpose must be sorely tried with his wayward and impracticable children. It is really too bad; after all his trouble to get them together from the very ends of the earth, and entertaining them in such magnificence in Rome, they will not do his bidding, or be led blindfold by his cunning advisers. In the meanwhile, the Government of Papal Kingdoms are speaking out and protesting against the Dogma. Learned Romanists are writing boldly and defiantly against the proposed article of faith, and are daring even to send their publications to Rome. In England the controversy rages between one section of Romanists and another, and the respective parties of the parties are baring fiercely upon this point. Rumors are floating about an early adjournment of the Council as the only way to get rid of some of the more troublesome Fathers, for whom employment must be found in their own Dioceses when the next summons goes forth, and who will see Rome no more.

Winter yet lingers, and cold winds prevail. We see but few signs of spring except in lengthening days. It has been a trying season for the poor, and one of much sickness and mortality among all classes. An unusual number of sudden deaths have taken place, admonitory to all to be ready to appear in the eternal world.

March 11, 1870.

Be a Christian in your works as well as words, for nothing short of this pleases God.

## A LAYMAN'S FURTHER DEFENSE OF HIS VIEWS.

MR. EDITOR.—I had hoped what I had written about the cause of the decline of the membership of our Church had received all the notice designed to be given it through your columns, but I am shown my mistake, by an article which appeared in the "Wesleyan" of the 9th, headed, "The Ministry and the Laity," and must therefore ask permission to reply.

Taking into consideration the views of the writer of that article, of the relative position of "ministry and laity," as illustrated in the third paragraph by the officers and soldiers of an army in conflict, his complaint of injustice on my part, in not accepting for the laity a share of the blame for the failure so generally admitted, was to be expected; but I did not expect to be charged with being engaged in a "crusade" against the ministry, and that by one who sustains in the forcible language of his seventh paragraph the correctness of my assumptions which are the foundation of his charge. And I therefore repeat my disavowal of the slightest antagonism or unkindly feeling towards our ministry, and must regard the charge as unwarranted and altogether unsupported, as fully appears by the admissions of its author.

The incentive to make remark on the second paragraph of the article under consideration is strong, but I forbear; convinced that the number of ministers who will not condemn it, and deplore its tendency is small, and that it will be generally regarded as a libel upon a portion of the membership not by any means the least effective in our church. A word however with reference to the insinuation contained in "baited breath." The representatives of that respectable body without whose permission and recommendation no man can enter the precincts of the ministerial office, have nothing in this quarter to fear from outspoken full discussion of their performance of duty in the admission of candidates to the ministry; the sting of implied unfaithfulness enters on the other side.

A kind of indirect plea is set up, that the faithfulness of the ministry cannot be judged of by the measure of its success, and facts in the history of three Old Testament worthies are cited in support. In reply, I say "Noah was a layman, and was entirely successful in the work to which he was called. If his mission was a failure there was there ever a successful one. Moses too was of the non-clerical order, and accomplished the great task assigned him by Jehovah. He was found faithful, while Aaron the priest, made Israel to sin. Jeremiah was all "another Wesleyan Minister" represents him to have been—he was more, he was a fearless denouncer of the wickedness and unfaithfulness of the priesthood, to which he did not belong; and it would have been an extraordinary spectacle to see the people renouncing idolatry and repenting while they had the example of their ministers for a continuance in sin.

I freely acknowledge, and who will not, that an earnest faithful membership co-operating with an earnest faithful ministry is indispensable to the full measure of success to be desired, and that is obtainable in an organized Church; but I deny that the unfaithfulness of the membership can frustrate the purposes of Jehovah in the use of His qualified faithful agents. Personal effort to bring sinners to the Saviour is certainly too much neglected by the laity, but are they not among our circuits but close ministers of their ministers in this neglect? We, without doubt, should imitate those of the early Church who when they were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word; but where is the authority for saying it was "preaching." What personal effort has been put forth by our ministers—what is being put forth to-day, on the different circuits within our Conference, to train up local preachers for our Church?

It is much to be desired that the aspirations in the concluding paragraph should be realized, but such results are the fruit of persistence in scientific practical husbandry. To adopt the figure and views of the writer of the article in question, I would say, let the officers by their devotion to the cause, courage, and forgetfulness of self secure the love and respect of those under their command, and it may be safely affirmed of the soldiers composing our corps of the great army, that they will not desert their officers in the time of conflict, but fully sustain the hard earned reputation of British soldiers.

## Circuit Intelligence.

### PARRSBOROUGH CIRCUIT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—I take the opportunity of forwarding you some account of our movements and state in this field of Christian labor. In September last, the ladies of Greenville, purchased to make an effort to raise means to purchase a library for the Methodist Sunday school of that place. Refreshments were at once provided, and the proceeds of the meeting, I am happy to say amounted to the noble sum of \$51.00. The library forwarded from the Book Room, gives general satisfaction.

For several years past, there has been a burden upon the shoulders of the Trustees of our church in Parrsboro' village; in the form of a chapel debt. You will readily suppose that this is felt as an evil which should if possible immediately be removed. A few of the friends feeling this, set themselves to work, and succeeded in getting up a Tea meeting, the proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the debt on the above named place of worship. The amount received was \$80.00, of which \$12.00, was raised in connection with the Lecture delivered on the occasion, by the late venerable William Wilson, about a fortnight previous to his demise. The debt still remaining, must of necessity be a source of trouble to both the Trustees, and the brethren who may be stationed here, until the sum be liquidated. Did the whole congregation feel equally interested in this important affair, go to work with a will the debt might soon be paid.

It is but right that mention be made of the willingness of our people to contribute towards the comfort of those who "minister to them in holy things." By means of refreshments at the Five Islands, and a Donation visit at Parrsboro', \$25.00, were raised towards furnishing the Wesleyan Parsonage. The friends at the Little Falls, Spring Hill, Maccan Mountain, and Old Maccan, have this winter, purchased a sheep and Buffalo Robe, at a cost of \$65.00 for the use of Bro. Seller, and his successors.

Our missionary meetings were held in February, and were well attended. The collection and subscriptions, were something in advance of last year. Bro. Seller has just returned from attending a missionary meeting at Advocate. He speaks of it as a success. In consequence of a temporary personal affliction, the writer was unable to be present. Bro. Weldon, has a very attentive, and interesting congregation there. He is much loved by his people.

sermons preached each Sabbath, by the two circuit preachers, and often, as many during the week. Besides, our esteemed Brother Lodge, takes three services every third Sunday. The field is so extensive, that it is impossible to attend rightly, in every place, to every department of our work. It is satisfactory, however, to know, that the Word of God has not been preached in vain. In connection with a few special services held at Spring Hill, the church was much revived, and several young persons professed to have received a sense of their sin, and acceptance with God. Elsewhere, under the ordinary means of grace, some have been constrained to commence to seek the Saviour. May they soon find Him. Our congregations are good, attentive, and serious.

W. A.

## HORTON CIRCUIT.

MR. EDITOR.—Our Missionary Meetings in this Circuit were held in accordance with the plan agreed upon at our Financial District Meeting.

Bro. Barratt, although not fully recovered from a very serious illness, was with us in two of our meetings, and gave us speeches that were calculated to awaken new zeal in the cause of Missions.

Bro. Nicholson, the other member of the deputation, rendered the cause good service by delivering excellent speeches at Lower Horton, Wolfville, and Greenwick, and by preaching an appropriate and instructive Missionary sermon at Avonport. In two of our meetings we had efficient aid from Bro. R. Smith of Canning, and in one, from Bro. J. Taylor of Aylesford. To these excellent brethren our thanks are due.

Rev. J. Crawley, who has been labouring in connection with the Baptist ministry in Burnham for some years, instructed and interested us, at the Wolfville meeting, by incidents of personal experience in regard to the discouragements and encouragements of missionary labour among the heathen.

Owing to local circumstances the above meetings were not as well attended as those of the previous year, except the one at Greenwick; but they were good meetings, and the collections and subscriptions were creditable.

Notwithstanding the heavy losses our agriculturists and others have sustained by the breaking of the Dikes last October, the state of our Circuit funds is as good as at any former period; but in regard to spiritual advancement we have nothing very cheering to write.

Special services held at Avonport last autumn resulted in considerable good, and the tone of religious feeling there is better, than it was before they were held. Precious seasons are enjoyed in some of our prayer and class meetings, and our congregations in general, in regard to numbers and respectful attention to the preaching of the word, need not be much complained of; but instances of awakening and conversion to God are of such rare occurrence that our hands are ready to hang down, and our hearts to faint. Some who sympathize with us in our work, try to comfort and encourage us by saying, "There is probably more good doing than you are aware of, and the bread you are casting upon the waters may be seen after many days." To this we cannot but reply, God grant that it may be so! but it does not satisfy. We want to see present results. We have been toiling in hope a long period, and we have deferred much the work of God. It would be "A tree of life" indeed, and why may we not have it? The Divine compassion for the perishing souls of men has not diminished, the blood of Jesus has lost none of its efficacy, and the Holy Ghost has lost none of His soul-converting power since those days, when, in portions of this Circuit, many were led to Christ under the ministry of honoured fathers and brethren, some of whom are now enjoying the fruit of their toil in the "house of many mansions." Encouraged then by such reflections as these we still pray, "Save now, O Lord! O Lord! O Lord! I beseech thee, send now prosperity. And may the Lord increase our faith! And these are times when unyielding faith in the all-conquering power of the Holy Ghost is needed. Many of the unconverted in our congregations have passed through powerful revivals of religion, and are consequently very much hardened,—not a few have backslidden from God and are standing in the way of the thoughtful, and there is much of scepticism abroad, especially in regard to the doctrine of the eternal punishment of the wicked. How strange it is! The Bible says plainly there is a hell, and that the wicked shall have their eternal reward there—says so as plainly as it does that there is a heaven where the righteous shall be eternally happy—as in Matt. xxv. 46, Mark ix. 43, 44, and yet some profess to believe in that blessed God as a revelation from God, reject its teaching on this point as contrary to reason! Surely "the God of this world hath blinded their minds," and concealed from them the obvious fact, that heaven itself would be a terrible hell to an ungenerous soul. May the good Lord give us more sympathy for perishing souls!

## LOWER HORTON, MARCH 18, 1870.

### BARRINGTON CIRCUIT ITEMS.

#### RELIGIOUS.

At one of our appointments there is in progress a very promising revival. A goodly number of all ages have already given evidence of manly and intelligent decision for Christ. The interest deepens, and we are looking for grand and signal results. My colleague, Bro. Mack, is indefatigable in soul saving work.

#### LECTURES.

We had a fine intellectual treat a few evenings since from Bro. Joseph Hart, of Yarmouth. He delivered two most excellent Lectures to highly appreciative and enthusiastic audiences on this circuit. The first, "The Anglo Saxon Language our heritage," was ably and eloquently handled, evincing great research and much mental grasp. The second "Women's Rights" was listened to with breathless attention. There were some beautifully chaste and richly ornate periods in this lecture. The lecturer has won for himself many golden opinions and many admirers here.

Mr. Editor, I regret that a more extended notice of these most excellent lectures cannot now be furnished to the readers of the Provincial Wesleyan. Yours, etc.

R. WASSON.

## AMHERST.

Bro. Brettle writes, March 17: "We have just held our March Quarter Meeting at the Church at Tidnish Quarter. We had a large representation that usual from every place in the Circuit except one. The Meeting was characterized by unanimity of spirit and sentiment; the financial affairs of the Circuit are not behind last year, at about the same date. A plan for the more efficient working of the Circuit, by calling into more prominent and systematic exercise the lay element of the Church was unanimously adopted by those present. We hope much good will result. We have at late yet larger congregations, but we cannot as yet report instances of true conversion, but we sow in hope. May the blessing from Heaven come down, which can cause even the desert to blossom as the rose!"

## HORTON CIRCUIT.

Bro. Cooper writes from Wolfville, 21st March: "We cannot communicate much concerning spiritual prosperity, though we have not without tokens of the Divine favor. At Wolfville our cause seems to be steadily growing. Our Sabbath congregations are very good, and our prayer and social religious meetings are interesting and profitable. There have been two or three additions to the membership of the Circuit recently in connection with the ordinary means of grace. At Kentville, our cause which has been very small for many years, gives evident signs of becoming more important in numbers and influence. The village, now containing the Depot of the Western and Annapolis Railroad, is rapidly growing, and the tide of immigration that is setting in to it is beginning to tell upon our congregations and the membership of our Church. Methodism, however, in order to hold its own with the other denominations, should have a minister resident in the village. Perhaps the Horton Circuit will be divided. It should, Kentville will probably be the head of the new Circuit."

## SUSSEX VALE.

### CHURCH OPENING, ETC., ETC.

On Sabbath 6th inst., the new church recently erected in Sussex Vale was solemnly dedicated to the worship of the Triune Deity. The Rev. D. D. Currie of Fredericton, preached in the morning at 10 and in the evening at 7; the Rev. Charles Stewart of St. John, preached in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. The church was very densely crowded at each service. We regret that some could not get seats or standing room and left without enjoying the Service. Friends were present from the adjoining Circuits of Upland, Havelock, and the City of St. John, and from Smith Creek, Mill Stream, Apohaqui, Carletonville, Newton, and various other places; the day proved one of the finest of the whole season; sleighing was excellent, and good use was made of it.

God was with His Servants in Preaching; the Word came with Divine power from the lips of the speakers. The collection amounted to \$65. The Sanctuary cost between two and three thousand dollars and is nearly paid for; remaining debt will not be more than 10 per cent of the cost; the frame was only up some time after the last Conference, the building committee and trustees have been energetic to have it completed in so short a period. May it become the birth place of precious souls! The Contractor, he has built them one of the most handsome churches in the County of Kings.

Special Services held on the Mill Stream were much owned of God in the conversion of souls; and others who had yielded to temptation and gone astray were again restored to Divine favour; it was delightful to hear them pray in public and witness for God. Members of other Churches came in to the Services, they were also blessed.

A number of kind friends on the Circuit recently made us a visit at the Parsonage, and before they departed left us between sixty and seventy dollars; the night was cold and stormy yet it was a most pleasant social reunion. Several speeches were given and excellent music, vocal and instrumental, added to the interest. The tea-tables were provided by the friends in abundance of good things.

## General Intelligence.

### NOVA SCOTIA.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The last meeting of the Seventeenth Session of the Young Men's Christian Association, was delivered at Temperance Hall last night by the Rev. Leonard Gault, of Pictou. His subject, "Nature and power of habit," was worked up in a most effective manner, and the whole lecture was couched in language of genuine eloquence. We are unable to give anything but an imperfect account of the speaker's remarks, and hence prefer to say nothing. The hall was comfortably filled, despite the unpleasant weather, and the large audience at the close, dispersed feeling more than repaid for the trouble undertaken in reaching the hall. Jas. B. Morrow, President of the Association, ably filled the Chair, and at the close of the lecture, offered to the young men present some very well-tempered remarks bearing upon the effect of habits as evidenced in his own experience. The prayer meeting closing the course will be held in Gratton Street Church on Tuesday evening next.—*Ac. Recorder.*

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—The Provincial Temperance alliance commenced its second annual convention in the basement of the Temperance Hall in this city on Tuesday evening the 22nd inst., the President A. Longley, Esq., in the Chair. The President and Secretary presented their reports; which were worked up in a special committee, composed of Rev. Leonard Gault, Shippy Spurr, James Munro, Wm. Wilson, and Dr. Chandler Crane. Some other routine business was transacted, and short addresses were delivered by Rev. E. Clay, Rev. N. Vidin, Mr. D. C. Fraser, Mr. Longley, Rev. L. Gault, and Mr. J. G. Morrison. The Convention held three meetings on Wednesday, and a final one on Thursday morning. The following was added to the third meeting of the Convention: "And any person, being a total abstainer, approving of the objects of the alliance, may become a member thereof, on paying the sum of \$1, at least once dollar annually." It was also resolved to raise an Endowment Fund of \$10,000 to forward the objects of the alliance.

It is understood that the main object of the alliance is to secure the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, but yet that it seeks the general advancement of Temperance principles. The following is the list of officers for the ensuing year: OFFICERS. President.—Hon. Samuel Greenman. Vice-Presidents.—Halifax County: Wm. M. Brown, Leitch, Manning, Thos. Walsh, Chandler Crane, M. D., James Spike. Lunenburg County.—Rev. J. O. Huestis. Queens County.—Samuel Freeman, M. P. P. Shelburne County.—Rev. Mr. Ritchie. Yarmouth County.—Rev. G. Christie, Rev. J. Whitman. Digby County.—Rev. C. Randall. Antigonish County.—Avalon Longley, Esq. Kings County.—Wm. A. Porter, W. C. Bill. Hants County.—Wm. McDonald. Colchester County.—R. Forman, Esq. Cumberland County.—A. S. Blenkinsop, Wm. B. Huestis.



