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Missionary Notices

OF THE

METHODIST CHURCH

OF CANADA.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1876.

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MISSION ROOMS, TEMPERANCE STREET, TORONTO.
(Richmond St. Church, South Entrance.)

Letters on the General Business of the Society are to be addressed to the Rev. Dr. WOOD; and all Letters relating to Finances are to be addressed to the Rev. A. SUTHERLAND.

COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1876-7.

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

THE REV. EGERTON RYERSON, D.D., LL.D., <i>President of the General Conference,</i>	} PRESIDENT.
THE REV. DR. DOUGLAS,	VICE-PRESIDENT.
THE REV. ENOCH WOOD, D.D.,	SENIOR SECRETARY.
THE REV. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND,	SECRETARY-TREASURER.
JOHN MACDONALD, ESQ., M.P.,	LAY TREASURER.

REV. W. JEFFERS, D.D.,	<i>President of the Toronto Conference.</i>
REV. G. R. SANDERSON,	<i>President of the London Conference.</i>
REV. WILLIAM SCOTT,	<i>President of the Montreal Conference.</i>
REV. R. A. TEMPLE,	<i>President of the Nova Scotia Conference.</i>
REV. ROBERT DUNCAN,	<i>President of the New Brunswick and P. E. I. Conference.</i>
REV. JAMES DOVE,	<i>President of the Newfoundland Conference.</i>

The following, elected by the Annual Conferences:—

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Laymen.</i>
REV. N. R. WILLOUGHBY, M.A., Peterboro', Ont.	JAS. GOODERHAM, Esq., Streetsville, Ont.
REV. J. A. WILLIAMS, St. Thomas, Ont.	A. J. DONLY, Esq., Simcoe, Ont.
REV. GEORGE DOUGLAS, LL.D., Montreal.	JUDGE DEACON, Pembroke, Ont.
REV. S. F. HUESTIS, Windsor, N.S.	D. HENRY STARR, Esq., Halifax, N.S.
REV. H. PICKARD, D.D., Sackville, N.B.	E. E. LOCKHART, Esq., St. John, N.B.
REV. JOHN GOODISON, Carbonear, Nfld.	HON. E. WHITE, St. John's, Newfoundland.

And the following Laymen, elected by the Lay Delegates of the General Conference, viz:—

HON. JAMES FERRIER, Montreal.	W. E. SANFORD, Esq., Hamilton.
GEORGE H. STARR, Esq., Halifax.	WILLIAM CLENDINNING, Esq., Montreal.
	JOSEPH LISTER, Esq. Hamilton.

COMMITTEE OF CONSULTATION AND FINANCE.

Ex-Officio Members.

REV. E. RYERSON, D.D., LL.D.,	<i>President of General Conference.</i>
REV. DR. DOUGLAS,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
REV. E. WOOD, D.D.,	<i>Missionary Secretary.</i>
REV. A. SUTHERLAND,	<i>Missionary Secretary-Treasurer.</i>
JOHN MACDONALD, Esq., M.P.,	<i>Lay Treasurer.</i>

Ten chosen from those composing the Central Board.

REV. DR. JEFFERS.	JOSEPH LISTER, Esq.
REV. G. R. SANDERSON.	A. J. DONLY, Esq.
REV. W. SCOTT.	JAS. GOODERHAM, Esq.
REV. J. A. WILLIAMS.	W. E. SANFORD, Esq.
REV. N. R. WILLOUGHBY, M.A.	WM. CLENDINNING, Esq.

Ten chosen from outside the Central Board.

REV. A. GREEN, D.D.	ROBERT WILKES, Esq.
REV. SAMUEL ROSE.	JAMES PATTERSON, Esq.
REV. S. D. RICE, D.D.	HON. J. C. AIRKINS.
REV. J. ELLIOTT.	W. H. GIBBS, Esq., M.P.
REV. GEORGE YOUNG.	A. W. LAUDER, Esq., M.P.P.

METHODIST MISSIONARY NOTICES,

NOVEMBER, 1876.

FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, CANADA.

ON Sabbath, October 8th, Anniversary Services, on behalf of the Society, were preached in the Centenary Church, St. John, New Brunswick, in the morning by the Rev. G. R. SANDERSON, President of the London Conference; and in the evening by the Rev. Dr. JEFFERS, President of the Toronto Conference. The Rev. J. A. WILLIAMS conducted the service in the Germain Street Church, and the Rev. A. SUTHERLAND, at Exmouth Street and Portland. In all these churches the congregations were large, and the discourses are said to have been "opportune, in keeping with the time and place, highly Missionary in sentiment, and breathing an earnest desire for the speedy evangelisation of all the peoples and nations of the earth."

The Annual Meeting of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church was held in the Centenary Church, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 10th. At seven o'clock the Rev. GEORGE DOUGLAS, LL.D., Vice-President of the General Conference, gave out the 693rd Hymn, commencing with—

"Head of thy Church, whose Spirit fills
And flows through every faithful soul,
Unites in mystic love, and seals
Them one, and sanctifies the whole."

This was sung with great heartiness; after which the Rev. A. SUTHERLAND, Secretary-Treasurer, led in prayer.

The Honourable JAMES FERRIER, of the Dominion Senate, by request of the Central Board, presided over the Meeting. On taking the Chair, he gave expression to the pleasure he had derived from his visit to St. John having looked forward to this Meeting of the Missionary Board and anticipating much pleasure in attending it; spoke of the visit he had made to this city previous to confederation of the Provinces, and now that the confederation of the two branches of the Methodist Church has been consummated, trusted he would yet be spared for a few years to see the harmonious working of this union. The power of the Church must be expanded by it, and much benefit ensue. Now that we are enjoying the benefits, we must open our hearts to those who have none of them. He eulogised the enterprise the Methodist organization, which keeps pace

always with the pioneers of civilization, with all other advancement and progress, and now that it occupies the proud position that it does, in the United States and Canada, there is cause indeed for thankfulness.

The Honourable Senator's speech, of which the foregoing is but a meager outline, was delivered with great facility and earnestness, and diffused a happy influence throughout the large audience.

An Abstract of the Report was read by the Rev. Dr. WOOD, Senior Secretary, which showed cause for much encouragement; a synopsis of this embraces in the first section all the Indian Stations from Fort Simpson, British Columbia, to the Province of Quebec. In British Columbia there are 5 Indian Missions and 4 Missionaries, the general reports from which are encouraging; in the North-West Territory there are 5 Missions and 5 Missionaries, with one Assistant. At White Fish Lake, one of the five Missions, a day-school has been established with an average attendance of 36 pupils of the Cree nation. The projected new Mission, at Belly River, &c., has been temporarily arrested by the lamented death of the Rev. George McDougall.

In Manitoba there are 5 Missions and 4 Missionaries, with an Assistant; considerable success has been achieved here, the principal difficulty being the acquirement of the language. In Ontario the Society has 25 Missions, in Quebec, 2. The total number of Missions to the Indians throughout the Dominion is 42, with 31 Missionaries, 6 native teachers, and 6 Ministers who aid the Missions near their Circuits. These have a membership of 3,334, an increase within the year of 305. There are 8 different languages among the Indian Missions, which present no small difficulty.

In Japan there are two Stations, with Messrs. George Cochran and Davidson McDonald, M.D., to care for them. The Report is very full of particulars of the labours of the Missionaries here; their success is cheering. Then follow the German and French Missions. The French Mission is of especial interest. Brighter days seem to be dawning upon this part of the field.

The domestic Missions throughout the Dominion continue to show signs of spiritual life and power. The union of the Churches has, with few exceptions, been working harmoniously and with the happiest results. In the six Conferences there are 339 Missions, 383 Missionaries, and 36,472 Church Members. A recapitulation of all Missions, including Japan, shows the following exhibit:—

Missions, 422; Missionaries, 458; Members, 40,937. There are 30 day schools, with teachers, and 21 interpreters, the total number of the paid agents of the Missionary Board being 515.

The Rev. A. SUTHERLAND followed with the Financial Statement of Income for the year, which, including the \$10,000 legacy from the late Mrs. Jackson, of Hamilton, amounted to \$162,639 73. The Expenditure for the year was less than the Income by \$3,962 09, still leaving a debt against the Society of \$25,300. The key note struck at this, the first Missionary Meeting of the year, would resound throughout the Provinces, and, beyond the Rocky Mountains, to the sea; and he trusted such a note here would be struck as would redound to the credit of this large meeting, and stimulate the liberality of the whole connexion.

It was gratifying to hear the news which had come of the success in missionary labour in the Indian Missions; among the Indians were to

be found as bright examples of Christian consistency as in any white congregation. The speaker paid a most touching and eloquent tribute to the memory of the late lamented Rev. George McDougall, whose labours among the natives of the North-West Territory could scarcely be enough valued. His high Christian character, his worth as a man, his labours for the Government in preparing the Indians to treat for the sale of their lands, and the abundance of his success as a Missionary were warmly spoken of; and the speaker said the Missionary Board were only prevented by lack of funds from carrying out the plans proposed by the departed Missionary.

Referring to Japan he said that lately he had heard an incident of the value of Missionary work there. Rev. Mr. Withrow, of Toronto, visiting the Centennial Exhibition, had found among the *attaches* of the Japanese Commission one who spoke English quite fluently, and in conversation with him mentioned the name of Mr. Cochran, the Missionary there. The Japanese at once exclaimed with joy that he (Mr. C.) had baptised him, and was further delighted to hear that the Society were about sending two more men there.

The Rev. R. A. TEMPLE, President of the Nova Scotia Conference, said briefly that all his love for the Methodist Church, his admiration of the Missionary Society, etc., could not induce him to make a speech in the presence of the venerable fathers and brethren from the West, and therefore he would content himself by moving the adoption and publication of the Report.

This was seconded by the Rev. N. R. WILLOUGHBY, M.A., Chairman of the Peterboro' District, Toronto Conference, who, on rising, said, though not feeling himself to be one of those venerable fathers referred to by the Rev. Mr. Temple, in fact, being the junior representative, would yet say he felt it a pleasure to be called upon here. The Committee had done well to come here, and to this church, as was shown by the appreciative audience. He had ever felt great respect for his eastern brethren, from acquaintance with those who had come to the West, and now his visit had strengthened that respect. He could well second the Report because of the fraternal feeling it expressed. In making this world God did not divide it into Europe, America, Africa, etc., it is we who have done that for our own convenience. He made of one blood all the nations, and redeemed them all by one Christ. For the joy and hope it expressed he commended it; where this religion goes there it spreads happiness. A man may live a very short time and live a great deal. It is not always the best people who live the longest. Sometimes God does come and take the ripest fruit to the garner. Those who are blessed by a knowledge of higher things, elevated spiritually to a higher plane, have sympathies and feelings that they who know not the Gospel can never know. The speaker said he did not believe the man lived on earth who does not believe in God—perhaps not in our God—but bound up in all natures is an instinct that there is a God and a future life. How many thousands there are in the world now who, with hearts bursting to know God, have never known of Christ, thirsting for they know not what. Mr. Willoughby spoke earnestly and logically.

The Rev. JAMES DOVE, President of the Newfoundland Conference, then moved the following resolution:—

“That this meeting, with fervent gratitude to Almighty God, acknowledges the peaceful harmony and general prosperity existing throughout the Dominion since the union and confederation of Methodism, and trusts that the spirit of Christ thus resting on the churches will yet be more fully

manifested, that by earnest and zealous co-operation our vast Missionary enterprize may be maintained and extended in its several departments, embracing our Indian, French, German, and numerous domestic Missions, and also enabling the Society greatly to increase the number of its Missionary agents, not only in British Columbia and the North-West Territories, but also in the Islands of Japan,—where the efforts of this Society have been eminently successful,—and to meet the necessities of the Eastern Conferences from Bermuda to Labrador.”

In moving the resolution the speaker said he was not ashamed of Newfoundland, a country grand in her ruggedness, nor was he ashamed of the people. They were not the dwarfed people either in mind or stature that they are sometimes said to be. In this connection he spoke of the pastor of the Centenary Church, born in Newfoundland, and neither small in physical appearance or mental development. The Methodists of the Island were earnest and sincere Christians. They numbered between 30,000 and 40,000, and had nearly 50 ministers, and not speaking in a boasting spirit at all, yet he claimed that outside of St. John's they were the only denomination who were labouring earnestly or at all in behalf of evangelical Christianity. The people were a poor people, and endured great privations. They had to toil hard, and sometimes the harder they toiled the greater was their failure, and yet he was not at all ashamed of the Missionary spirit and enterprize of the island. He claimed that it was noble in them to raise \$5,000 for the Missionary Fund. It was raised in a true Missionary spirit, and was what Christ delighted in. The resolution spoke of the confederation of Methodism. He rejoiced in this fact, and although there was not yet a political confederation existing between the countries, yet there was as pure a loyalty to Great Britain as ever pervaded any of her colonies. The Reverend gentleman became quite warm in his expressions of loyalty, and his remarks were well received.

The resolution was seconded by JUDGE DEACON, of Pembroke, Ontario. He had long desired to have an opportunity to visit these Provinces, and was very much delighted with his visit, and with what he saw. When he was a lad he had thought Upper Canada was a fine and a great country, and he thought so still; but as the Dominion had come into existence, he felt that he now belonged to a great country indeed. As he travelled down over the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial Railways, he obtained an idea of its extent, and when he reached St. John and found he had over two hundred miles yet to travel before reaching Halifax, it was certainly gratifying to him that he was a Canadian. He spoke of his recent visit to the Centennial, and described the great display of intelligence, industry, and ability. He was struck with an inscription over that part occupied by Egypt: “The oldest country in the world sends her greeting to the youngest nation.” He went through the departments of Egypt, Turkey, and Tunis, and interviewed all their skill; but the old Egypt of the past is Egypt still. What had she done for the world with her 11,000 square miles and 50,000,000 inhabitants? What had Turkey?—What had Tunis?—What had they all done to ameliorate the condition of, or develop, mankind? Egypt did not know upon what depended the success of the magnificent country she was greeting. He passed the part devoted to Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada, with her letters of gold, and was proud of the display made. He then turned and saw the space occupied by the British and Foreign Bible Society with its Bibles in 200 languages, and the American Society with its numerous translations, and felt that he must say God bless the nations that spread the glorious Gospel which elevates, enlightens, and sanctifies irrespective of class or colour. While he was

proud of Canada in the splendid display of her labour-saving appliances, he was especially proud of Ontario in the display of her educational department, and here he paid a just tribute to the part taken by Dr. Ryerson in the matter of education in Ontario, claiming that it was to him that Ontario and her educational department were indebted for the admirable system of education. We have our pyramids in our canals which foster enterprise, our railroads which place us in quick communication with distant parts, in our well established Churches, in our school-houses, where our boys and girls will become trained in the liberties which have been given to them, and where their characters become moulded so as to make them good and useful citizens, and educated in the principles of our holy religion they become Christianized and sanctified people. To do this efforts must be put forth, and faith exercised. But how valuable will be our efforts both for the present and for the time away off in the future? Whether we have an intensity of action or not, the Kingdom of Christ will prevail. He spoke of his interviewing the Japanese, and how they are laying aside their toys and turning their attention in a more practical direction, being a keen, perceptive, and shrewd people, they are now employing their time in the manufacture of steam engines and machinery. This he claimed as one of the results of the Missionary labour. He spoke of the methods of dealing with the Indians, that adopted by the United States and that adopted by our own Dominion. The Sioux and other troublesome tribes are able to give blow for blow, and not long since the Sioux tribes proposed to the Canadian Indians to unite with them against the United States, promising assistance to them against Canada. This, however, the Canadian Indians, knowing the honesty of intention of Canada, declined. The word of George McDougall to them was that of a prince. There were no truer allies in any part of the world than these very Indians. It is a great comfort to us to think that we are extending this great work.

The CHAIRMAN also spoke of the work Dr. Ryerson had done for Canada, and from a personal knowledge he was prepared to say that he had done more for our country than any other individual. He then introduced the Rev. JOHN A. WILLIAMS, Ex-President of the London Conference, who moved the following resolution:—

“That this Meeting is deeply impressed with the conviction that the political and ecclesiastical condition of the world indicates the approach of marvellous changes in human society, in harmony with prophetic announcements, and therefore we most earnestly pray that God may pour out upon all flesh the spirit of grace and supplication, to the end that all the nations of the earth may receive the glorious Gospels of the ever blessed God”

He had known the Society for forty years. This is the fifty-second anniversary. Had been following it from his boyhood. He had a lively recollection of the thirteenth anniversary, and had been actively connected with the Society for many years. Just now he was labouring in the far west in St. Thomas, and he, too, was on his way from the Centennial. He thought the people quite as wonderful as the articles displayed.

He related in a graphic manner his experience in Wall street. He was asked if he had ever been there; replying in the negative, he was taken up into the gallery and saw a class of men called the “bulls” and “bears.” This was a most wonderful sight to him—people clipping their fingers and screaming what they were willing to give. It really seemed extraordinary, and he felt constrained to say that if Christians acted in that way they

would be called fanatics; but he would like to see such a spirit displayed, an anxiety to invest in this great work that yields such rich returns. There was a good deal said about the greatness of the Church. The Church was not half as great as it ought to be, or as it must and will be. A man had, a short time ago, asked him his idea of the millenium and when that period would arrive. He told him that he never thought much about it; but that, perhaps, when the English language would be the only language spoken, and every person was a Methodist, when the knowledge of the Lord should cover the earth as the waters do the sea, the millenium would come.

He had long had a desire to look in at St. John, and was glad of the privilege. He gave expression of his pleasure and thanks for the hospitable manner in which he had been received. He spoke of the relative amounts raised by the New Brunswick and London Conferences, and offered a challenge for their acceptance, that if they would raise one-third more in New Brunswick than last year, he would promise that in the London Conference they would do the same.

He then alluded to the wonderful growth of the Missionary cause. How that 100 years ago, the idea of the conversion of the Indian was never thought of, and how that, not many years ago, an Indian was put out of a Church in Canada merely because he was an Indian. Religion has done a great deal for the Indian. We, in civilized countries, draw out all the culture of the past, while the Indian has but the advantages of the present.

The world all over is moving towards the right in consequence of this Missionary work. But in order that this work be successful there must be great faith exercised and individual consecration. Christ had faith in the regeneration of all men, He looked at men in their worst, too, and unless we can look in the same faith and hope of their regeneration we had better give up our organizations, as we have no right to exist except in the spirit of Christ. There is no use offering the prayer "Thy Kingdom come," unless we believe the earth is to be restored. The restoration and redemption of mankind was God's purpose before He put it in the Gospel. This restoration is to be through our aid and our instrumentality. In the creation God worked alone. In the redemption He takes us to help Him. There is a great glow and satisfaction comes over a person when he knows that he is carrying out the purpose of the Divine mind.

He then related an incident of a poor fellow whom he saw lying drunk on the side of the road once. He was recognized by the drunken man, who said he was ashamed he was seen. Mr. Williams replied that he was ashamed too, and spoke to him of his evil course. The man asked him if he thought God would have mercy on him. He told him He would, and asked him to sign a pledge which he (Mr. Williams) always carried with him, but he said he could not keep it. Being induced to take it, he was always enabled to resist temptation by prayer, believing that God would give him strength. We want to pray in a believing spirit for the Holy Ghost until we feel that we have it, and have hold of God. The Divine presence must be with us, and there must be consecrated endeavour. The Church has given money and blood. Noble men have been raised up and stricken down; the Scriptures have been translated into various languages, but the Church has never yet given itself.

The resolution was seconded by JOHN MACDONALD, Esq., M.P., who referred in touching terms to his last visit to St. John, when he stood on that

platform with Rev. George McDougall, setting forth the claims of the Missions. That gentleman he had met as a stranger, but their short association had been such as to cause him to appear more as a brother. He then said that the Central Board had intrusted to it last year for appropriation the sum of \$158,678. This sum, though large, was much below the requirements of the Church, and altogether insufficient for the work embraced in the Society's operations, embracing the Domestic or Home Missions, French, German, and Indian work, besides the work in Japan, and that among the Chinese, found in British Columbia. In addition to this amount, some \$30,000 more was needed, so that existing work might be carried on. Even with this increased amount the greatest care was needed in its distribution, and even with care it is feared that there were some cases of hardship if not of suffering.

The present Meeting of the Central Board in your city, is the most important gathering which has taken place since the union of the Methodist Conferences of the Dominion; most important, because, if the Church is to fulfil its mission as a Missionary Church, it must make a new departure; most important, because the time for that new departure has arrived; most important, because if that new departure is not made the result must be the embarrassment of the funds and the consequent enfeebling of the work. I call your attention to the words of Christ in reference to the spread of the Gospel as recorded by Matthew: "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." It is, then, quite clear that the Gospel shall be preached in all the world. But not so clear that the Church realizes its responsibility in connection with this work. It is not so clear when we look at the Church's contributions, that it realizes the importance of the Saviour's utterance. And yet the fact remains, that the Gospel shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. In this highly favoured land the Gospel has been preached for a witness. It would be impossible to find a place in your Province, or in any of the old Provinces of the Dominion, where its sound has not been heard and its influence felt; and yet, would you believe it? a large part of the amount raised for Missionary purposes is spent in the Provinces of the Dominion upon what are called the Domestic or Home Missions.

Thousands of dollars are spent every year on Circuits where we find a membership of 150, and even 200, in localities where they have been in the receipt of Missionary money for ten, twenty, and even forty, and in some instances, fifty years! And where, if they had been heathen congregations at first instead of Christian, they would have been self-sustaining long ago.

Thousands of dollars are spent every year in rich Districts in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec:—in your best sections in New Brunswick, in the fertile valleys of Nova Scotia, and in the best farming districts of Ontario. And what benefit are we bestowing upon such Domestic or Home Missions? None whatever! We are doing them harm, infinite harm. We are demoralizing them. Do you want to find a broken-down, impoverished Church? Do you want to find a feeble cause? Do you want to find a sickly, religious people, without progression and without hope? Go to a Domestic Mission in a good district which has been in the receipt of Missionary money for twenty years. Such Circuits only begin to prosper when they relinquish Missionary grants, when they begin to build churches, to increase their ministers' salaries, and find, that, instead of being dependent upon the Missionary Society, they are able to contribute to its funds for the conversion of the heathen. Some one of Britain's generals, I forget which, while about to cool his fevered lips, saw a dying soldier cast

a wistful eye at the water which he held, said, though wounded and faint and bleeding himself, "Give it to him, he needs it more than I." How noble it would be if many of these Circuits, abundantly able to support the preaching of the Gospel among themselves, and yet yearly the recipients of Missionary money, would refuse any longer to take it, but would say, "Send it to the heathen; they need it more than we."

But some say the Church has a work in progress among the heathen. It has its Missionaries in Japan, a field upon which very large sums have been expended; a work for the continuance and support of which the Church is committed. There are those, and they are not few, who say that this work was premature, that the money has not been wisely expended, that it would have been better laid out if expended on the Domestic Missions. I affirm that all who speak thus have never stopped to calculate either the amount spent or the good accomplished. Of all the interesting fields of Missionary labour in the world, none is so full of promise to-day as Japan; no people more anxious for the Gospel. The Church commenced by us, it may be said but yesterday, has a membership of sixty-three gathered from paganism, and with an outspreading field, white unto the harvest, a field in which, during a short period, not less than six hundred Bhuddist temples have been closed as places of worship and appropriated to other purposes.

We have the fruits of this Mission brought to our very door, for at the Centennial, and connected with the Japanese department, are those who have been converted through the instrumentality of our own Missionaries, and who are filling important positions in connection with the department of their own work at the Exhibition, and I venture the statement our new departure is made in the line indicated. The Japanese will be helping to sustain the Domestic Missions of Canada, by contributing to the general fund, before many of these Circuits will voluntarily go off the fund. It is quite true we spend a sum annually upon Japan. That sum last year was about \$3,600. We sing:—

"O for a trumpet voice
On all the world to call,
To bid their hearts rejoice
In Him who died for all.
For all my Lord was crucified,
For all, for all, my Saviour died."

And yet, strange inconsistency, this great Methodist Church of Canada, this Church for which God has done so much, this Church for which God is doing so much, expended last year, upon Japan, about \$3,600, or, about 3 cents per member. Little cause is there for boasting. To me the fact is humiliating. Never, in the history of Missions, has any field yielded fruit so rapidly, or given such promise for the future, and if we are to improve the openings, if we are to be made a blessing to that interesting people, we must send them more Missionaries, and the day is not far distant when the whole of that field will be worked with a native agency. I am aware that there are many who suppose that the Methodist Church is doing more in spreading the Gospel in heathen lands than any other Church in Canada, but it is not so. The Presbyterians are doing more, for, if you look at the work of that Church in the South Sea Islands, its work in India, its eight or nine appointments in Formosa, and its work among the Coolies of Trinidad, you will find that they employ a greater number of labourers, and expend a vastly larger amount. I say, God bless the Presbyterians! (Amen;) and make them yet a thousand-fold more useful. For the carrying on of the great work of our own Church for the present year \$200,000 is wanted. Can the Church provide it? Yes! How? 1st. By our Domestic Missions becoming largely self-sustaining. 2nd. By our friends increasing their con-

tributions. In dealing with the Domestic Missions, we must be honest, we must tell them that it would be a shame longer to continue Missionary grants to Circuits abundantly able to sustain their ministers, that the time has come when such grants must cease, that regions dwelling in darkness may be furnished with the word of life.

The remarks closed with an appeal for increased liberality and an intimation to those present, that while the Church had not been doing all that it should and all that God had enabled it to do, if they were to realize the blessedness of giving, they must do more.

After this, loud calls were made for the Rev. DR. DOUGLAS, who responded and delivered a most eloquent and masterly address upon the power of Christianity to elevate the human mind, and diffuse light, liberty, and happiness throughout the world.

The fourth resolution, conveying the thanks of the Committee to the officers and contributors of the society, was moved by WILLIAM CLENDINNING, Esq., of Montreal. Mr. Clendinning, in the course of his remarks, made an eloquent appeal for Home Missions. The resolution was seconded by G. H. STARR, Esq., of Halifax, N. S.

Dr. WOOD moved a vote of thanks to the Honourable Chairman, seconded by the Rev. HOWARD SPRAGUE, M.A., Pastor of the Centenary Church, to which the congregation heartily responded by a rising vote. This interesting meeting closed at 11 p.m. Collections, \$200.

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

THE Central Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada assembled in the Centenary Church, St. John, N. B., at 9 o'clock, on the morning of October 10th, 1876. The members of this important organization who were present, are as follow:—The Rev. Dr. Douglas, Vice-President; Rev. Dr. Wood, and the Rev. A. Sutherland, General Secretaries; John Macdonald, Esq., M.P., Lay Treasurer; the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, President of the Toronto Conference; and the Rev. G. R. Sanderson, President of the London Conference; the Rev. Wm. Scott, President of the Montreal Conference; Rev. R. A. Temple, President of the Nova Scotia Conference; the Rev. Robert Duncan, President of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference; the Rev. James Dove, President of the Newfoundland Conference; the Hon. James Ferrier, Montreal; George H. Starr, Esq., Halifax; Joseph Lister, Esq., Hamilton; Wm. Clendinning, Esq., Montreal; and the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, M.A., Peterboro'; Dr. Norris, Omamee; Rev. J. A. Williams, St. Thomas; A. J. Donly, Esq., Simcoe; Judge Deacon, Pembroke; Rev. S. F. Huestis, Windsor; D. Henry Starr, Esq., Halifax; the Rev. Dr. Pickard, Sackville; and the Rev. J. Goodison, Newfoundland.

To have had a full and complete Board we needed the presence of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, President of the General Conference, who is now in England, W. E. Sanford, Esq., of Hamilton, the acting Executor of Mrs. Jackson's will, who recently paid to the Society her legacy of ten thousand dollars, and the Hon. E. White, of Newfoundland.

Here were the representatives of more than one thousand ministers, and not far from half a million professed adherents of the Methodist Church, gathered to review the Missionary operations of the Society among the Ojibway, Muncey, Oneida, Delaware, Cree, Stoney, Blackfeet, and other Indian Tribes; among the settlers and half-breeds of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba; among the more newly-founded and destitute settlements within the boundaries of the Toronto, London, Montreal, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and P. E. I. Conferences; and the truly Missionary work carried on in the Newfoundland Conference. The large and benevolent heart of Dr. Coke was first turned to the destitute condition of the fishermen of Newfoundland, and when baffled in his attempt to reach the island by the hostility of adverse storms, he then was taken to Antigua, W. I., where he began, on behalf of the Wesleyan Conference, those glorious Missions which rescued thousands from spiritual and eternal death, and contributed largely to the abolition of slavery. Newfoundland continues to share in the kindest sympathy and consideration of the Central Board. Last, but not the least in importance, the Board had to extend their vision and listen to the appeals from their latest Missionary enterprise—the Mission to Japan. No wonder their assembling in the city of St. John for such a purpose, where the voice of Wm. Black and Joshua Marsden, Wm. Crosscombe and the Manns, and many others now asleep in Christ, had been frequently heard in the delivery of the same Gospel truths the Board were met to advance, and not very far from the locality where, in 1782, the sons of John Wesley sowed the “seed of the Word,” now spread over the surface of the wide Dominion of Canada—no wonder there was felt a solemn responsibility, which contributed much to the devotional spirit that characterised the whole of the sessions.

The Vice-President gave out the 327th Hymn; the Rev. A. Sutherland read the 72nd Psalm, and the Rev. R. A. Temple led in prayer. The Rev. Wm. Scott and A. J. Donly, Esq., were elected Secretaries. First in order of business was the reading of the “Minutes of the Committee of Consultation and Finance,” who, by the authority of the General Conference, shall provide, during the intervals of its annual meetings, “for any exigences that may arise.” There were six meetings of this Committee during the year, all connected with subjects which had been referred for adjudication to this court by the Central Board, or matters of business requiring immediate attention, and which could not, without injury to many interests, await the annual meeting. These “minutes” ran over eighteen folio pages; and diversified and sometimes onerous as were the duties of the Committee, after a very free and full discussion of the same, they were unanimously confirmed by the Central Board.

The financial condition of the Society was presented by the Rev. A. Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer, which elicited a great many questions, occupying a good deal of time in giving explanations of the expenditure and debt of the Society, all necessary for a full understanding of the responsible position in which the Board was placed, and which led to the adoption of the following resolution regarding the necessity of retrenchment in the appropriation to some Missions, and the entire withdrawal of others from any dependence upon Missionary money. The lucid and painstaking manner in which the whole was presented gave universal satisfaction.

“That the Central Board, experiencing great embarrassment in providing for the really destitute portions of the Domestic Work, and finding great difficulty in responding to the calls made upon it from the Heathen World, and this difficulty and embarrassment arising, to a large extent, from the demands made by Domestic Missions of long standing and of

large membership, and in old and well-settled districts, this Board is strongly of opinion that grants to such Missions should either be greatly modified or absolutely cease; and appeals to the devotedness and loyalty of the members of the Church on such Missions generously to relinquish Missionary aid, and thus enable the Board to meet its responsibilities in making more equitable appropriations for the more destitute portions of its extending work."

A very interesting memorial was read to the Board from the Methodist Church in the Islands of Bermuda, where there is a mixed Society of 480 members and 4 Missionaries, two of whom also act as Chaplains to the Army and Navy. With the expression of the views of the Board, and a grant of \$950, the subjects embodied in the document were referred to the Committee of Consultation and Finance, and the decision that, in future, the Islands should be considered under the head of Missionary Districts.

After making appropriations on the most economical scale, commensurate with the demands of the Work, the Board found themselves embarrassed by the aggregate amount greatly exceeding the anticipated income for the current year; ultimately, the following resolutions were adopted:—

"That in order to meet in a more equitable manner the needs of the Domestic Missions, a deduction of 5 per cent. be made from all the grants already passed; and that the Treasurers be authorized, on behalf of the Society, to assume an additional sum sufficient to meet two-thirds of the amount recommended by the Committee for the support of the Domestic Missions, which will add a sum of \$10,000 to the debt of the Society, unless the same is paid from increased contributions; and it is agreed that the deduction of 5 per cent. shall also apply to the amounts recommended by the Committee for rents and removals in the several Conferences, and to the amount voted to the Newfoundland Conference."

"That in view of the embarrassed state of the funds, the Missionary Committee of each Conference be requested to appoint the best available deputation to go through the entire work, for the purpose of securing from every subscriber of last year an increase in his subscription, and from each Conference an increase sufficient to raise the average to not less than two dollars per member."

Confiding in the good Providence of God, to whom belongeth the "gold and silver, and the cattle upon a thousand hills," and in the pious liberality of a generous people attached to Methodism throughout the Dominion, the Central Board have shown both their sympathy and faith by their appropriations reaching the sum of \$167,955 43, for 1876-7; being an increase of \$13,239 88 beyond the expenditure of 1875-6. Very systematic and zealous efforts will have to be made to enlarge the present year's income, if the Society is to be saved from an embarrassment which will cripple future operations.

For the purpose of making a final adjudication of the balance in favour of the Home Mission Fund at the time of the Union of the two bodies, and in accordance with the principles agreed upon by both contracting parties when they met under Dr. Punshon's Presidency in Montreal, a Committee was appointed by the Board, who, after thoughtful and deliberate exchange of views, agreed upon a report, which was heartily and unanimously accepted by the Central Board without any debate. From peculiar circumstances affecting the interests of Missions in Eastern British America, special grants were made to the extent of \$5,000, not included in the sum already reported as appropriated.

Several resolutions were adopted in addition to those already quoted, affecting the financial working of the Missions, such as the erection of buildings, repairs, affections, &c., which are also printed and placed in the first pages of the present year's Report. Brethren appointed to Missions will do well to read them carefully, not omitting the "miscellaneous" ones, and especially the last, that our people may be kept acquainted with the labours and successes which attend the footsteps of the "messengers of the churches." The resolutions are as follow .—

APPROPRIATIONS FROM CENTRAL BOARD.

"That moneys granted by this Board for any particular department of our Missionary work, shall not be diverted by any local Missionary Committee to any other object, nor shall the relative amounts of the grants be changed; and in case the entire sum granted for any particular purpose is not required, the balance shall be retained by, or returned to, the General Treasurers."

SPECIAL CLAIMS.

"Whereas it is sometimes necessary, in consequence of severe illness or death, to supply the place of a Missionary during part of a year, and as varying claims for the support of such supplies are made upon the Missionary Board, the following regulations are now adopted for future guidance :—

"SUPPLY IN CASE OF SICKNESS.—In case a Missionary is laid aside during the year by illness which incapacitates him for work, the President of Conference and Chairman of the District may, if they judge it necessary, procure a suitable supply; and the Treasurers, on being duly certified of the facts, accompanied by a Physician's certificate as to the health of the Missionary, are authorized to pay towards the cost of such supply, an amount not exceeding the proportion of a single unordained man's salary, for the period during which his services are necessary, within the current Conference year.

"SUPPLY IN CASE OF DEATH.—In case of the death of a Missionary his family shall be privileged to remain on the Mission and receive the allowances for the rest of the year; and an amount for a supply, similar to that mentioned in the preceding regulation, may be allowed.

"SUPPLY PENDING THE REMOVAL OF A MISSIONARY.—In case a Missionary is removed from a distant station, and it is found necessary to supply his new field of labour until such time as he can reach it, a grant for such supply may be made, similar in amount to that mentioned in the preceding cases.

"AFFLICTION.—Whereas special claims for affliction are sometimes presented, which cannot be regarded as legitimate, it is necessary there should be a distinct understanding in regard to this matter. In admitting claims of this kind, it was not originally intended that Missionaries should receive back every dollar expended for medicines or for medical attendance. These grants were intended to HELP in cases where expenses incurred by sickness were unusually great, or the salary unusually small. It is to be understood, therefore, that only cases of this exceptional character will hereafter be entertained, and the Board reserves the right of granting either the whole or part of such claims, as it may judge expedient."

"In order to prevent unnecessary delay in the settlement of Special Claims, it is recommended that they be presented at the next District

Meeting—Financial or Annual—and, if recommended by such meeting, forwarded at once, with the physician's (or other) bill duly received, to the General Secretaries."

ERECTION AND REPAIRS OF MISSION PREMISES, &C.

"In order to economize as far as possible the funds of the Missionary Society, and at the same time afford necessary aid in securing and maintaining suitable buildings on our Indian and Foreign Missions, the following regulations will hereafter be observed :—

"1. No application for a grant for new Mission premises or buildings will be entertained unless a description of the proposed buildings, with their estimated cost, has first been submitted to, and the expenditure distinctly authorized by, the Central Board or the Committee of Consultation and Finance.

"2. The same rule will be observed in regard to the repairing of Mission Buildings and the purchase of Furniture."

NEW MISSIONS.

"That whereas the multiplication of new Missions is causing great embarrassment to this Board in the distribution of the Funds of the Society, we respectfully urge upon the various District Meetings and Stationing Committees the utmost caution in recommending and establishing new Missions."

PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.

"The following method will hereafter be observed in the publication of the Missionary Reports :—

"1. A separate Report will be published for each Conference, giving details of income as heretofore published in the General Report.

"2. The General Report will contain only the names of Subscribers of Five Dollars and upwards, and the aggregate amount from each Circuit or Mission."

OVER-DRAFTS.

"The Secretary-Treasurer brought forward the case of Conferences whose Treasurers had overdrawn, or against whom there stood small balances.

Resolved,—"That the sums referred to be allowed to the several Conferences this year, but that hereafter no such balances or overdrafts be allowed."

Nothing could exceed the courtesy and hospitality of our St. John friends, a record of which, in harmony with the feelings of every member of the Central Board, is placed upon the "Minutes" of the meeting.

By the united requests of the Board and the Brethren interested on the several circuits, the Rev. J. A. Williams and J. Macdonald, Esq., M.P., attended the Missionary Anniversaries, beginning the following Sabbath, October 16th, at Sackville and Amherst; Dr. Jeffers and Rev. A. Sutherland, at Halifax; and the Rev. G. R. Sanderson, at Windsor.

It was decided that the next Annual meeting of the Central Board should be at Brockville, Ont., on the 1st Tuesday in October, 1877, at 9 o'clock a.m.

RECENT INTELLIGENCE.

LETTERS from the Rev. J. F. German, M.A., Chairman of the District, contain encouraging statements affecting the Missions throughout the Province. In Winnipeg, the congregations continue good, and the general interests of the Church are promising. The Rev. Wm. Halstead reports favourably of his own Mission at Portage-la-Prarie, and of the success attendant upon Rev. Mr. Lawson's labours at Palestine, at present our most Western Domestic Mission in Manitoba. The absence of the grasshopper plague has restored the people to their former cheerfulness; they needed nothing to augment their confidence in the richness and productiveness of the soil, or the healthiness of the climate.

From BEREN'S RIVER the Rev. J. Semmens writes approvingly of the excellent condition in which he found the Mission premises, and passes a high encomium upon Mr. and Mrs. Egerton R. Young. Nor is he less enthusiastic in his laudations upon the garden, for the vegetables and flowers with which he found it adorned. Upon the religious aspects of the place he is less sanguine, and more cautious in his utterances, but more hopeful of the future.

From JAPAN we have information of the safe arrival of the Rev. Messrs. Meacham and Eby, with their families. They reached Yokohama September 8th. Mr. Meacham had settled down to his work at Numadzu, and Mr. Eby was actively employed at Tokio. The brethren had organized the first District Meeting ever held in Japan, and among other subjects speak favourably of three candidates for the Christian ministry, converted Japanese.

FORT SIMPSON.—Miss Knott, teacher for this Mission, reached her destination October 7th, after detention of six weeks in Victoria. Miss Knott reports :—"I think these are the finest body of Indians I ever met with and much the largest. They received me most heartily, the whole congregation shaking hands." The Rev. Thos. Crosby had visited Alaska, where a number of his converts had settled for the present, who had formed a church, and were exercising a good religious influence in the community. The American officer in charge of the place had written to Mr. Crosby in very commendatory terms of the good already effected there.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Selina and Isaac, per Rev. Wm. Taylor, for Japan	\$2 00
Rev. J. E. Richardson and Wife, St. Armand, a thank offering	20 00
Anonymous	200 00
Anonymous, towards the reduction of the debt	95 00
Per Rev. W. W. Sheppard—Charles De Coverly, for Japan, \$6.00; A Friend, Burford, for French Canadian Missions, \$1	10 00
Profits on Indian Needle-work sold by Mrs. Sanford, per Miss Batty, Norway House	6 67
The total amount received from Circuits to date	\$515 68

THE ANNUAL REPORT was published on the 2nd November.