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[REGISTERED.]

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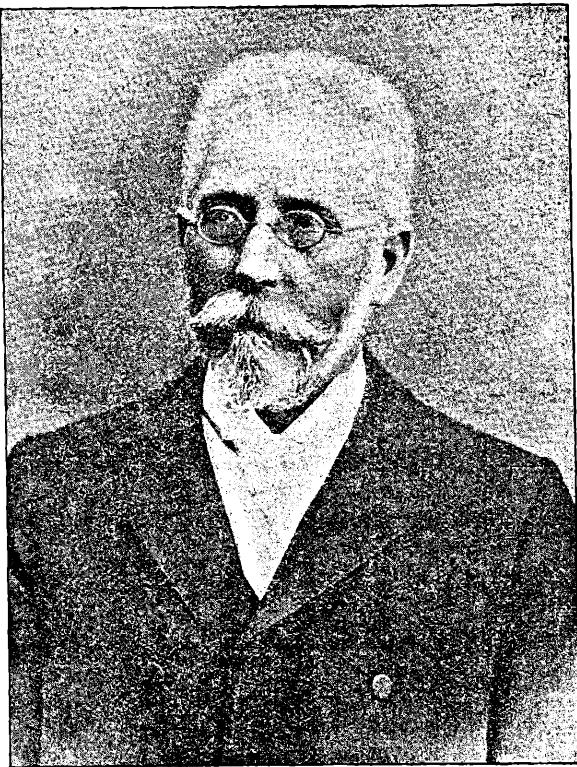
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LONDON:  
CHAS. H. KELLY, 2 CASTLE STREET, CITY ROAD; and  
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THE BEST FOR THE HIGHEST.

'GRANT that through Thy holy Church we may come into Thy holier Kingdom,' was the prayer with which Dr. Forsyth closed his recent address to the Congregational Union. To many the order set forth therein is arresting. The Church the prelude to the Kingdom! That view seems in need of adjustment to the New Testament presentation, where the Kingdom comes first and the Church second. Whereas the Gospels say much about the Kingdom, they are almost silent as to the Church. Yet when we look beneath the surface we see that while the Kingdom is first in revelation, it is last in realisation, for the obvious reason that, instead of being a society sharply defined and dwelling apart, such as we can conceive the Church to be, the Kingdom involves the steady penetration of every legitimate sphere of human activity by the Christian spirit, and the assertion



REV. W. A. FRENCH.  
THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY.

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therein of the sovereignty of Christ. And so the Church is but the porch to the Kingdom, and men enter it only in order that, having learnt what Christianity is, they may proceed to apply it unflinchingly in all the wide realm that lies beyond.

But if it be through the Church that the Kingdom is realised, then it follows that we best establish the Kingdom as we sustain the Church. Various things may contribute to this end, such as gifts of gold, and the erection of suitable centres of work. But the ultimate forces of any Church are personal; and among these it is no disparagement of persons who in manifold other ways are doing excellent and most necessary work to say that the supreme place belongs to the Preacher of Christ's Gospel. Of Methodism it may be frankly avowed that its centre of gravity has always been the pulpit. Thither our people have been accustomed to turn for the setting forth of those high ideals and incentives which constitute edification in righteousness. The terminology of a Church is often suggestive as to its ruling ideas, and

while Primitive Methodism has had no use in its ecclesiastical vocabulary for 'priest,' because it has had no place for priestism, the old phrase by which the appointments of its ministers were designated as 'The Stations of the Preachers,' sufficiently indicates the central place which, even amid the varied functions of the ministry, preaching has always assumed. And than that term 'preacher,' there is no higher designation which a Church can give to its servants, nor one which they can more earnestly covet to deserve.

If the work of the preacher is central because it is the most formative, it follows that there is no door which, as a Church, we need to guard more jealously than that which admits to the ministry. None should be permitted to pass that portal save such as are worthy. And the worth demanded must consist of personal goodness, but not one whit less exactly, of capacity to preach. For lack of that gift no other recommendation, such as learning, or social charm, or even piety, can for one moment be regarded as compensating. In spite of all that has been said about the decay of preaching, the capable preacher will always have eager listeners, and the future lies pre-eminently with that Church which can furnish its pulpits with men who, with the sweet blending of passion and intelligence, can most convincingly present the Gospel of redeeming love.

It is a sure sense of the things which are central that has led Mr. W. P. Hartley to let the stream of his generosity flow so largely in the direction of ministerial training. No doubt speedier, because more superficial, results might have been obtained, had it been diverted elsewhere, but it is questionable whether in the end any expenditure will prove more fruitful. Yet we need to realise that such a justification of Mr. Hartley's policy can only be forthcoming in proportion as Circuits take a serious and lofty sense of their duty. For it is from them that the ministry is recruited, and it is within Circuit Courts that the initial steps are taken which lead towards the pastoral office. In so far as the curtain is drawn aside from the New Testament Church, we see that designations to ministerial service were always made with a befitting solemnity. The Church felt that it needed to be in its most spiritual mood when it was choosing an apostle or appointing a missionary. And to-day there is no business to which a Methodist Quarterly Meeting addresses itself which needs to be done with a graver sense of responsibility to the Head of the Church than the recommendation of some young man for ministerial work.

Theological Institutions, our own included, are sometimes blamed unjustly. They are found fault with because some of the men, whom they send forth, do not prove successful in the actual work of the ministry. But, in so far as this is the case, who is primarily to blame for it? The critic of colleges too often forgets that they have their limitations, and that their function is not the manufacture of preachers, but their training. For preaching is not an acquisition, but a gift. It can be polished by exercise, and improved by healthy criticism, and enriched by scholarship—in all these directions a college training can be of inestimable value to the man who already possesses the preaching endowment—but where it is absent, no such training can impart it. So far as preaching gifts are concerned, what a College sends forth will depend entirely on what the Churches send in. It cannot, therefore, be too strongly insisted that ere men are recommended as candidates for the ministry, Circuits should be convinced that they possess in more than an ordinary degree the capacity to preach. Primitive Methodism requires for its pulpits men whom the common people will hear gladly, and it is for Circuits to see that such men, and only such, are sent forward. Obviously there is no court before which a ministerial candidate has to approve himself that can so authoritatively determine whether he possesses the supreme qualification of

a preacher as the Circuit in whose pulpits he has repeatedly served. And for a Circuit, through fear of giving offence, to recommend a candidate concerning whose pulpit acceptance many have serious misgivings, or to acquiesce in such a candidature in the unuttered hope that a Committee, much less informed, will, at some later stage of the candidature, discover by a miracle of insight the defect, and do that which the Circuit ought to have done—this represents an abdication of duty of which it is impossible to speak too strongly.

And yet, we must not be understood as implying that this offence is of frequent occurrence. What we are anxious to see prevalent is such a high sense of the function of the preacher that it shall never occur at all. Our Church has the right to demand that Circuits shall not only send into the ministry the best of their rising preachers, but shall send none but their best. And is it too much to urge also that a larger proportion of these should be supplied from the homes of our more prosperous people? The last forty years have witnessed a great increase in the wealth in our Church, and the number of men among us who are able to afford their sons the best intellectual equipment was never greater than it is to-day. The young men of Primitive Methodist parentage who have passed through the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge during the last twenty-five years are no mean number. Yet to some of us the reflection is not wholly satisfactory, that most of them have given themselves to the legal or scholastic profession, whilst those who have sought entrance into our ministry can be counted upon the fingers of one hand. No doubt from the standpoint of financial gain other callings present greater attractions than does the Methodist ministry. Nevertheless it would be a delightful omen were we to see even in the ampler homes of our people such a sense of the supreme dignity of the ministerial office that, in spite of financial sacrifice, it became an easy and natural thing for the son of such a home to turn his face towards it. When Hugh Price Hughes, abandoning his ambition for a legal career, wrote to tell his father that his mind was fixed on the Methodist ministry, it was not every father who, in similar circumstances, would have replied: 'I would rather you were a Wesleyan preacher than Lord Chancellor of England.' Yet that reply disclosed a true passion for Methodism and a real sense of the supreme claim of its ministry upon the best minds and hearts.

So do we plead that those Primitive Methodists upon whom fortune has smiled should give to our Church their sons as well as their money. But whether our candidates come from the villa of the rich or the cottage of the poor, Circuits should send forward none but the very best. We need in the ministry, men aflame with passion and zeal, possessed of pleasing utterance and endowed with vigour and freshness of mind. If men of this type are forthcoming, we can be confident, not only that the wider ministerial training contemplated will be worthily bestowed, but that there will be in our pulpits a ministry which will maintain the best traditions of the past and will be fully competent to meet the manifold needs of these exacting times.

—A. LEWIS HUMPHRIES.

### Newbury Circuit.

The June quarterly meeting was well attended. The membership was reported to be the same, with a reserve, but the finances showed a small deficiency caused by the extra demand in the employment of an additional agent during the two winter quarters. No business of a special character called for attention, but importance attached to the quarterly meeting by the circumstance that it marked the official termination of the seven years' ministry of the Rev. John Neville. During this time the circuit has steadily progressed in all departments. All debts on chapels (with one exception) have been cleared away, the Sunday schools have been well maintained, missionary finance considerably improved, circuit income increased, and the contribution to the Local Preachers' Aid Fund the highest in the district. The circuit membership has also increased from 480 to 505.

A fitting resolution was accordingly placed upon the Circuit Minute Book, that 'This Quarterly Meeting desires to express its deep regret that owing to physical disablement it should have become imperative for the Rev. John Neville to seek superannuation. As this is the last Quarterly Meeting at which he will be present in his capacity as Superintendent of the circuit, the Local Preachers and Officials here gathered are desirous of placing on record their high appreciation of his Christian character, and of the dignity and kindly bearing with which he has maintained the ministerial office in our midst. As a preacher we have found him faithful in declaring the whole counsel of God; as a visitor to our houses he has ever been most diligent and sympathetic; while as superintendent of a wide and important circuit, his oversight of twenty-two societies, with their varied material and spiritual interests, has been wise, assiduous, and benign. Nor can we forget the respect which is entertained for him among those outside our own communion, evidenced by his election this year to the Presidency of the Newbury and District Free Church Council. We rejoice that in co-operation with other Free Churches on occasions of a more public character, we have had in Mr. Neville one who has always represented the best elements of our common Christianity. It is a great satisfaction to us that in his retirement he will continue to reside in Newbury, and that he will not be precluded from rendering continued service to our beloved Connexion and the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

## EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT SCARBOROUGH.

WEDNESDAY Morning, June 14th.

### THE APPOINTMENT OF CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

The officers were appointed as follows:—

Sheet Secretaries—Rev. James Keightley and G. P. Clarke.

Registrar of Letters—Revs. J. W. Venables and W. Younger.

Letter Writers—Revs. A. E. Calvert, W. Curry, J. S. Nightingale, G. Stanyer, A. Warcup, Messrs. A. Warcup, F. J. Glass, J. Pendlebury, J. Gillender, and F. A. Ingham, with C. M. Luke as letter writer on New Zealand matters.

Float Secretaries—Revs. J. Dobson and T. Tyers.

Readers—Revs. A. Bevan, W. Welford, and Mr. E. Jennings.

Precentor—Rev. F. E. Heape.

Assistant to General Committee Secretary—Rev. John Hallam.

To prepare Committee Lists—Revs. F. Richardson and W. L. Taylor.

### LETTERS OF SYMPATHY.

A letter of sympathy was sent to William Clay, Member of the Deed Poll, who was unable to be present owing to illness.

The General Secretary stated that the retiring Book Steward (Rev. Robert Bryant) was very seriously ill, whereupon a telegram, expressing the regret and deepest sympathy of the Conference, was at once forwarded to him.

Great regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. W. P. Hartley, who, on doctor's advice, was not able to be present at the opening, and a letter of sympathy was sent to him.

### DEATH OF REV. LEVI NORRIS.

The Conference was pained to hear of the death of Rev. Levi Norris, which took place last Sunday evening. A letter of condolence was sent to the family of our deceased brother, who had served the Church so nobly and well.

### Wednesday Afternoon.

This afternoon's session commenced with the singing of 'O Jesus, I have promised,' after which the Rev. R. Harrison (presiding) called upon the Rev. J. Shaw to lead the Assembly in prayer. The hymn, 'Come ye that love the Lord,' was then sung.

### INDUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Rev. R. Harrison (the retiring President) extended a very hearty welcome to the Rev. G. E. Butt as the newly elected President. He said that he had been delighted with all that had been said with regard to his (Mr. Butt's) work, and he was sure that the Conference had honoured itself in such an election. He assured Mr. Butt that he would have the confidence of the whole of their church during his year of office, and he hoped that it would be a year of great blessing.

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

On rising to speak, the Rev. G. E. Butt received a most enthusiastic reception, and Mrs. Gibson (a lady delegate from the Manchester District) proceeded to the platform and presented the President with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. At the same time two younger ladies presented bouquets, one to the President and the other to the Vice-President (Mr. Rawlings). Having acknowledged the welcome of the retiring President, the Rev. G. E. Butt proceeded to say that until very recently he had had no idea of being elected to such a position, though in the early years of his ministry he was free to say that he had had dreams of such a thing coming to pass. The election, he said, was a genuine surprise. He humorously remarked that had he been called upon to manage a few thousand natives, beyond the bounds of civilisation, he thought he could have done it; for those people, he said, only expressed themselves when they had anything to say, and said what they thought. He hoped, therefore, that if he manifested impatience with much talk they would try and bear with him, and if so he was sure they would work very harmoniously together. He accepted the honour conferred upon him, however, with mingled feelings.

So far as he had been elected as a missionary, he was delighted, for he stood before them in a representative capacity. He represented every missionary in the foreign field, and he knew that the news of his election would go out to them as a great inspiration. But whilst joyfully accepting the position in the capacity of a missionary, yet there was a little pain in his joy as that decision pointed to the conclusion of his missionary career. He considered that to be a missionary was a greater honour than that of being elected as President of the Conference. It was a great joy to him that for the last 17 years he had enjoyed the confidence of their church in South Africa, and to him this joy was secondary to that. He was sure that if the brethren could only realise the glory of standing up for Christ in the foreign field the Missionary Committee would have no difficulty in finding a successor to himself. It was because they did not apprehend the glory of working for Christ where there was no one else to work for Him that they did not say: 'Here am I, send me.' He hoped that if anyone there had the ghost of a doubt as to his conduct politically in Africa they would disabuse their minds of it.

What Africa needed more than anything else was to be let alone. When he wanted to assist Africa politically he would go out to Africa to do it, and he would do it, by the help of God, in the presence of the people whom he had learnt to love, and with whom he would be glad to be identified to the end of his days. He said that he would be a missionary President, for he could be nothing else; and if they had elected him for anything else they had made a mistake. He remarked that it had been said that he had 'missions on the brain,' but it was more correct that he had 'missions on his heart.' However, he assured them that it did not follow that he would not

be interested in anything else, for all that concerned the church would interest him.

He thanked God for the great revival wave which had passed over Wales, the influence of which had been felt even in Aliwal North, and he trusted that in all their churches in this country they would have such a revival. He said that he would also be a 'Passive Resister,' and he expressed himself very strongly respecting the great wrong which had been done to this country in the name of education. He assured the members of the Conference that so far as they were prepared to resist such a wrong he would be with them. He referred, in conclusion, to the newly elected Vice-President (Mr. Rawlings), whose help he would be glad to have.

### INDUCTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mr. George Green, the retiring Vice-President, in introducing the Vice-President, said he wanted to give a warm welcome to Mr. Rawlings as his successor. He said he was under a debt of obligation to Mr. Rawlings, who retired last year in his favour, and thus saved him the expense of a contested election. He was sure the new Vice-President would be equal to all the duties that would be required of him, and he wished for him a very happy and useful year of office.

### VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. E. C. Rawlings then addressed the Conference, and said it was a great joy to him to be Vice-President when his friend Mr. Butt was in the chair. His name had been associated with him all his life. He would do his best to fulfil all the obligations put upon him, and would try to pay at least one visit to every District. He was glad the President in his address had emphasized the spiritual side of our work. Allegiance to Jesus Christ was pre-eminent. The man who loved Christ the most would be desirous of doing most for him. The note Rev. Mr. Rattenbury struck at Manchester a few weeks ago might be true of some churches, but he was glad to say it was not true of our Church. Our founders were working men, our Church is built up of working men, and our ministers were the sons of working men.

In regard to the Labour problems, they ought to give them deep and serious study. They were told that the church was antagonistic to Labour, and vice-versa but, said the Vice-President, they go hand in hand. Let them remember that their Church had in the past furnished the Labour Leaders. They sympathized very much with those who were suffering from unemployment. There was something wrong in the social system, which needed rectifying.

Another question which was largely bound up with labour was the Temperance Question. There was talk about the municipalization of the Drink Traffic, but they did not want the trade municipalizing, because it is wrong. They were not proud of the Government's Act in regard to Compensation. They wanted to see this traffic brought absolutely under the control of the people.

He next referred to the Education Question, and said they were told that secular education was the only possible solution of our difficulty. They did not believe it. The Bible had made English character. One reason why the French nation is as it is to-day is because the Bible had not been revered in France. The Bible is a book of history, of poetry, and of biography. Why should it be taken out of the schools to please the secularists of this country? He felt that the Passive Resistance movement had done a great deal to keep the matter to the front. It was a movement which would go on until the question of national education was placed on a satisfactory basis. He trusted that they would be zealous and true to the principles they believed to be right.

He hoped every Delegate would go from the Conference determined to love Christ more, serve Him better, and shew by their actions that they were anxious to exalt His name; and next Conference it would be their privilege to report a greater increase.

### THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

The Rev. James Shaw moved the following resolution, viz:— 'The Conference hereby expresses to the retiring President, the Rev. R. Harrison, its sincere congratulations upon the successful discharge of his duties during the year of his Presidency. The Conference remembers with warm appreciation the ability displayed by the retiring President in the conducting and control of the sessions over which he was called to preside. The harmony and peace of the Conference, and its frequent elevation into lofty and ennobling moods were largely attributable to the spirit and tone of its President. The Conference is mindful of the exacting and arduous duties entailed upon its President throughout the year; the frequent and long journeys; the many and differing meetings and services; and also those other numerous occasions when the President has to represent his Church in spheres outside his own communion. We rejoice to know that through all the year the church has had a trusted representative and leader, and that the confidence of the Conference, as expressed a year ago, has met with ample justification.'

'In retiring from the honours and toils of the position, the Conference assures Mr. Harrison that a grateful memory of his worth will be cherished by the church, and we will pray that the Divine Lord may bestow upon him a lengthened term of fruitful service in the ministry of the church where-in he has manifested such marked devotion, and where his labours have been signally crowned with success.'

Mr. Shaw said he felt sure all would agree when he said that Mr. Harrison had retained the honour and dignity of the office he had held. In no sense had he stinted himself in labour, he had travelled thousands of miles, and had, he believed, given complete satisfaction. The District in which he lived not only appreciated the honour bestowed upon Mr. Harrison, but as highly appreciated the services he had rendered within the District.

Mr. Henry Adams in seconding, said Mr. Harrison had done his work nobly and well, as he predicted twelve months ago, and he hoped that he would have years of service before him.



The resolution was carried unanimously, after which Mr. Harrison briefly thanked the Conference.

#### THANKS TO THE RETIRING VICE-PRESIDENT.

Rev. P. Oliphant Hirst moved the resolution of thanks to the Retiring Vice-President as follows:—

That the thanks of the Conference be presented to Mr. George Green, J.P., for his distinguished services as Vice-President, not only in the chair of the Conference, where his tact, urbanity, and business despatch were of conspicuous advantage, but by the valuable help he has rendered our Churches in various parts of the Connexion during his year of office in preaching special sermons, addressing public meetings and presiding at various functions, in all of which he has by his dignity and ability worthily maintained the traditions of his high office, and the Conference prays that he may be spared yet many years to serve our church and advance the Kingdom of God.

Mr. Hirst thought it fitting that the resolution should be submitted by a representative from Mr. Green's own District. Where he was known the best he was loved the most. Throughout Scotland Mr. Green was revered and honoured as a Primitive Methodist Local Preacher, and our church had no more loyal son than he. They all had seen how completely Mr. Green was at home at the sitting member's Reception on the previous evening, but he was even more at home in a prayer meeting or singing in the open-air mission. Every Sabbath afternoon Mr. Green had for many years taught a Bible Class of prisoners, and many a lad who had made his first false step had been recovered, and had made his way in life through the kindly help of their ex-president. He felt sure that they would carry the resolution with all the acclamation it deserved.

#### THANKS TO THE RETIRING SECRETARY.

Rev. J. Welford, the General Committee Secretary, moved the following resolution:—

That the Conference places on record its high appreciation of the ability and care with which the Rev. W. A. Hammond has fulfilled his duties as Secretary of the Conference. With a genius for secretarial work Mr. Hammond has had a fine opportunity during the year of exercising his gift, and has amply justified the hopes that were entertained of him when elected to the position. The resolutions of Conference, as entered in the Journal, bear evidence of the carefulness of his work, of his orderly and methodical habit of mind; and in the duties pertaining to his office since Conference closed he has shown great promptness and unfailing courtesy. In retiring from the position he has filled with so much honour to himself and advantage to the Church he has served so long and variously, we wish for him many years of honourable service.

Rev. A. E. Calvert seconded.

Rev. W. A. Hammond thanked the Conference for its hearty appreciation of the services he had rendered. When elected twelve months ago he made up his mind to do the best he could, and to put into it the best he possibly could, in order that the work might be well done; and at the end of his term he felt more than repaid that his services had received the thanks of the Conference.

#### THANKS TO RETIRING BOOK STEWARD.

The Rev. John Hallam, in a sympathetic speech, moved the following:—

The Conference desires, on the retirement of the Rev. Robert Bryant from the General Book Stewardship, to express its high appreciation of him and his work during the five years in which he has held this office. We recognise that he has fulfilled the duties of this onerous position at a time when the difficulties arising from keenness of competition in the book trade were not less than before, but rather increased, by the general depression in the commercial world. Nor do we forget that by the resignation of the late manager, who for so many years had been closely connected with the various interests of our book-establishment, Mr. Bryant was placed in a critical situation. He, however, faced the circumstances with his well known intelligence, tact, and courage, and we rejoice in the success which has crowned his efforts.

To the Station Book-Stewards and others with whom he had to do business he has ever been courteous, obliging, and genial, and where firmness and discipline have been necessary, he has tempered it to the utmost with Christian urbanity.

We bear in mind that right in the heart of his official term our brother, in the providence of God, was called to pass through a most serious and critical ordeal, which threatened to end at once his ministerial and official work. How bravely he bore himself under it, how persistently he sought to discharge his duties amid weakness and pain is known only by the few, whose admiration of the man was enhanced thereby, but best understood by they of his own household who nursed, sustained, and helped him.

We profoundly regret that the close of his Book-Stewardship is also the termination of his active ministry of forty-one years, and that affliction precludes his being present with us in this Conference; but we assure him that he retires with the good will and esteem of the Church he has so well served, and we wish for him and Mrs. Bryant a period of quiet restfulness and joy, lengthened, if it please Almighty God, for many years.

The General Committee is hereby instructed to convey this resolution to Mr. Bryant by an address, or in such form as may be deemed most suitable.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

At this point the Rev. W. Cutts, a Deed Poll member and an Ex-president, raised a question of order. He claimed that on all the Grand Committees there should be a representative of the Deed Poll. He thought that it would be to the honour of the Conference to recognise in such a way those who had done such valuable work for the connexion in years past. He said that he did not care to see, especially an Ex-president, at once put aside. The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary), in reply to Mr. Cutts, said that whilst he was in sympathy with what had been said, yet so far as the constitution of the Stationing Committee was concerned they were bound by rule and must act accordingly. It was decided, therefore, that on all other Committees there should be a representative of the Deed Pool.

#### STATIONING COMMITTEE.

It was resolved that the following should compose this Committee:—The President (Rev. G. E. Butt), the Secretary of the General Committee (Rev. John Welford), the Secretary of the General Missionary Committee (Rev. J. Pickett), G. P. Clarke, J. Wood, G. W. Turner, S. Hilton, J. Shaw, W. Parker, E. Campbell, J. W. Stores, A. E. Calvert, M. Yelder, S. R. Woodall, C. S. Parkin, J. H. Green, E. Horne, W. Wheeler, J. Trafford, J. Blayney, C. R. Stevens, H. J. Pickett, W. F. Everatt, G. Trusler, J. Skinner, W. Clulow, J. J. Appleby, P. O. Hirst, J. D. Jackson, J. Peters, F. Jeffs, H. Adams, J. Keightley, C. W. Barker, W. Younger, F. W. Taylor, F. Richardson, M. Thompson, F. E. Heape, F. Rawson, W. L. Taylor, D. Smith, J. W. Venables, J. T. Jeffrey, A. J. Bull, R. Sharp, A. A. Birchenough, J. Roberts, A. Warcup, J. H. Waters, T. Jackson. J. Welford will attend as the Secretary of the Candidates' Examining Committee and J. H. Taylor, M.A., as Secretary of the Probationers' Examining Committee to give any information which may be necessary.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

John Welford (General Committee Secretary), James Pickett (Secretary of the General Missionary Committee), T. A. Ingham, J. R. Hinds, T. A. Wagstaffe, J. Adams, R. Harrison, E. Luscott, R. Shields, J. Grainger, W. Ball, S. Dann, A. Beavan, C. S. Parkin, J. H. Green, E. Viner, W. M. Kelly, H. Robinson, H. Green, W. Welford, W. F. Everatt, G. Trusler, J. Walker, J. Shepherd, C. A. Shaw, J. P. O. Hirst, H. W. Wood, J. Gulliver, Dr. Wilshaw, W. Franks, J. E. Cliffe, J. Redhead, C. Strauson, J. W. Cotton, Councillor C. Gray, F. Richardson, W. Cooper, W. W. Fidoe, W. L. Taylor, A. Hill, J. W. Venables, G. Brown, A. J. Bull, W. Haines, A. A. Birchenough, J. Roberts, A. Warcup, W. Waters, Jos. Johnson, J. Gledhill, C. M. Luke, T. Whitehead, H. Yooll, T. Mitchell.

#### COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS.

J. Welford, J. Pickett, G. P. Clark, H. Garner, G. W. Turner, Councillor S. Hilton, W. J. Ward, G. Armstrong, H. C. Wood, C.C., A. E. Calvert, H. Tweed, S. R. Woodall, T. Axon, J. H. Green, H. Watkins, H. Errington, J. J. Clixby, J. Blayney, Councillor Stevens, J. Dobson, E. A. Howe, E. Millichamp, J. Walker, R. Lush, J. Dancer, P. O. Hirst, F. W. King, W. A. Eyre, G. Pomfret, J. Hawkins, Councillor Peatfield, F. W. Harper, J. Todds, E. W. Challenger, R. J. W. Hall, F. Richardson, W. Gilbertson, G. Ford, T. Rowley, W. L. Taylor, G. Boshier, J. W. Venables, A. J. Bull, W. Herrington, A. A. Birchenough, J. Morris, A. Warcup, A. Coker, J. Jacobs, T. Lawrence, J. P. Bellingham.

#### STUDENTS' COMMITTEE.

J. Welford, J. Pickett, J. R. Hinds, Councillor Jennings, J. Shaw, G. Armstrong, W. Yelder, J. Brown, J. Hawkins, W. Wheeler, J. Blayney, G. Sawyer, B. W. Cowell, A. Parkin, F. W. King, T. M. Pinnock, W. Neal, T. Robinson, E. Phillipson, F. Richardson, F. E. Heape, W. Lane, Councillor J. T. Jeffrey, A. J. Bull, A. A. Birchenough, J. H. Waters, F. H. Lodge.

#### HARTLEY LECTURE COMMITTEE.

J. Hallam, J. Welford, E. C. Rawlings, W. Beckworth, H. Yooll, J. Yearsley, T. M. Pinnock, G. Trusler, F. Jeffs. H. Yooll, Convener.

#### DECEASED MINISTERS.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that a record be made that the following ministers had died during the year, and that a letter of sympathy should be sent to the relatives:—

District.	Name.	Age.	Travel- led.
Nottingham	- Chas. H. Boden (sup)	- 79	42
"	- William Sheasby (sup)	- 68	44
Hull	- John G. Smith (sup)	- 69	35
Sunderland and N.	- John Worsnop (sup)	- 66	42
Manchester	- Daniel Neilson, B.D.	- 54	22
Brinkworth and S.	- William Haddow	- 47	21
"	- Daniel Harding (sup)	- 80	42
Leeds and York	- William Thoseby	- 68	44
"	- Robert E. Wheeler	- 40	16
London First	- Henry G. Button	- 65	44
London Second	- William Freear	- 80	41
"	- William Woodward	- 25	2
West Midland	- Jos. Ferguson, D.D. (sup)	- 66	43
Liverpool	- William Wilkinson (sup)	- 86	37
Sheffield	- William Evans (2) (sup)	- 61	39
Grimsby and Lincoln	- Robert Thompson (sup)	- 67	42
"	- Joseph Tongue, B.A. (sup)	- 71	35
Carlisle & Whitehaven	- John Taylor (1) (sup)	- 68	33
South Wales	- Edward A. Davies, D.D.	- 67	44
Salisbury and S.	- Charles S. Portnell (sup)	- 65	43
Missions	- Matthew B. Stamp	- 57	35
Bristol	- Levi Norris		

The General Committee Secretary intimated to the Conference that he had just received news of the death of Rev. J. G. Wright, of Australia.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE.

It was decided that a Memorial Service be held on Saturday, June 17th, and the Rev. A. Beaven deliver the address.

#### MINISTERIAL SEPARATIONS.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that a record be made that the following brethren had separated from the ministry—W. H. Wicks, C. S. Ball, R. A. Robinson, and W. T. Cranfield. The resolution was seconded and adopted.

Special reference was then called by the General Committee Secretary to the case of Rev. W. T. Cranfield. He said that Mr. Cranfield was a young man of very fine character, and that his short ministry had been a most blessed one. Acting on medical advice he had found it necessary to separate from the ministry on the ground of health. He moved that a letter of sympathy should be sent, as the case was a most painful one. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Skinner, who regarded Mr. Cranfield as one of the ablest brothers who had ever been called into the ministerial work. He said that those who knew him best, grieved most on account of this step which he had been compelled to take.

The Rev. H. J. Pickett, supporting the resolution, said that

Mr. Cranfield was a young man of very promising gifts, and however painful the case was to the Conference it was much more so to the young man and his wife.

The resolution was then adopted and the Rev. H. Yooll was requested to forward a suitable letter to Mr. Cranfield.

The Vice-President enquired whether anything more practical could not be done in this case. He thought that the matter might come before the Financial Committee, and that was ultimately decided upon.

#### MINISTERS APPLYING FOR SUPERANNUATION.

The General Committee Secretary moved that a record be made that of those who, on account of age and infirmity, were compelled to seek superannuation from the active ministry, and that a letter of sympathy should be sent in each case. This was seconded and adopted. Those who are superannuated are

District.	Name.	Age.	Travel- led.
Tunstall	- John Tristram	- 66	44
Nottingham	- George Griffin	- 64	40
Sunderland and N.	- John Alderson	- 63	40
Norwich	- George Seaman	- 65	45
Brinkworth and S.	- John Neville	- 65	44
Bristol	- Castle Ross	- 64	39
London First	- Robert Bryant	- 63	41
London Second	- Richard Evans	- 62	38
"	- Thomas G. Dyke	- 61	37
"	- Edward Millichamp	- 65	44
West Midland	- Joseph Shenton	- 64	42
North British	- George Newton	- 63	38
Sheffield	- Charles Dudley	- 64	40
"	- Charles Spivey	- 65	41
"	- William Kitchen	- 61	39
"	- John Shephard	- 62	43
Grimsby and Lincoln	- Joseph Hucknall	- 67	44
"	- John Spenseley	- 65	43
Darlington and S.	- William Bowe	- 64	43
"	- Thomas Granger	- 69	42
South Wales	- Enoch Ball	- 66	47
Lynn and C.	- Albert Hebblethwaite	- 64	40
Salisbury and S.	- George Hull	- 67	45
Missions	- Joseph Knipe	- 63	39

#### REV. WILLIAM BOWE.

The General Committee Secretary thought that there should be special recognition taken of the retirement of the Rev. W. Bowe from the ranks of the active ministry. He moved that a special letter should be forwarded to Mr. Bowe acknowledging the valuable services which he had rendered, and expressing to him their well wishes on his retirement.

This was seconded by the Rev. J. Hallam, who remarked that he could not say all that was in his mind to say respecting Mr. Bowe, and he regretted that on account of ill-health he was not able to be present with them though his district had appointed him as one of its delegates. He considered Mr. Bowe as a most worthy minister, with whom he had worked shoulder to shoulder for many years.

The Rev. W. Younger, in support of the resolution, said that he wished to add one word of tribute to Mr. Bowe, who had been held in the highest regard by the young men in the ministry.

The resolution was then adopted.

Attention was also called to the retirement of Revs. Charles Spivey, Chas. Dudley, Geo. Seaman, and others.

#### THURSDAY Morning, June 15th.

The President, the Rev. G. E. Butt, announced the hymn 'Rock of Age,' after the singing of which he read Ephesians chap. i. Mr. Jenkinson, Haxby, and Rev. J. Griffin led the assembly in prayer. The hymn, 'Arise my soul, arise,' was then sung.

The Conference Secretary (Rev. W. A. French) read the minutes of the previous day.

#### A NEW ZEALAND DELEGATE.

Mr. E. M. Luke, of New Zealand, having arrived, the Rev. J. Welford (General Committee Secretary) pointed out the irregularity of the New Zealand District in appointing Mr. Luke. The delegate should have been a minister. However, he was pleased to move that Mr. Luke should be received.

In seconding this, the Rev. J. Pickett said that Mr. Luke came from the other end of the earth, where he had held a most important position. He was a Justice of the Peace and had twice been president of the New Zealand Conference. He was very glad, therefore, to second the motion that Mr. Luke should be received.

A Lay-Delegate intimated that if he had been in Mr. Luke's position he should not have felt very comfortable. He thought that remarks had been made in relation to the case which ought not to have been made. The Conference, however, did not sympathise with the speaker's remarks and ultimately adopted the General Committee Secretary's resolution.

Mr. Thomas Lawrence remarked that whilst the Secretary was right in pointing out the irregularity in Mr. Luke's appointment, yet he was glad that the Conference had received the brother without the slightest reserve.

#### A WELCOME TO MR. LUKE.

In proceeding to the platform Mr. Luke received a very enthusiastic welcome. In addressing the Conference, he said that that was one of the proudest moments of his life. Though a stranger to them he was not a stranger to Primitive Methodism, to which he owed his earliest aspirations. He was there, he said, as a layman, though he had some misgivings as to his real position, for in Belfast he had been spoken of as the Rev. E. M. Luke. He was proud of the Primitive Methodist Church, with which he had been associated from his infancy. He had been a Sunday School Teacher and a Local Preacher, in which latter capacity he had had the joy of seeing many brought to the Saviour. He proceeded to explain his position in being appointed as delegate, and again thanked the Conference for the way in which he had been received.

#### PUTTING ON THE HARNESS AGAIN.

The Rev. J. Welford (General Committee Secretary) moved that they were glad to know that George H. Beeley and Thomas Lagar were resuming active work in the ministry. This was seconded and carried.

## TEMPORARY RELIEF.

It was moved that the Rev. B. Senior have a year's rest, with an assistant. This was seconded and adopted.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. John Welford) moved that the Rev. James Travis be granted a year's rest, with an assistant. The Rev. Robert Gillender, in seconding this, was glad to say that there was nothing seriously wrong with Mr. Travis, and that he was as strong as ever he had been mentally.

The resolution was carried.

It was also decided that a letter of sympathy should be sent to each of the brethren named.

## APPOINTMENT OF CONNEXIONAL OFFICERS.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford the Rev. Edwin Dalton was appointed to the office of Book Steward.

## NOMINATIONS FOR VICE BOOK STEWARD.

In nominating the Rev. G. P. Clarke, the Rev. W. Welford said that Mr. Clarke was a man who had a great record of useful service behind him. He was also a brother of more than usual capacity and fitness. He assured the Conference that Mr. Clarke was the very best candidate they could possibly have.

Rev. J. H. Hemshall, of the Nottingham District, was nominated by Mr. S. Hilton, who said that Mr. Hemshall was one of the District Secretaries. He had travelled 28 years, was in the prime of life, one of the best business men, genial and courteous, and he had pleasure in nominating him.

Rev. Henry Pratt, of the Sunderland and Newcastle District, was nominated by Rev. Geo. Armstrong, who said that his nominee was a manager of men; a man of great kindness and yet a man of firmness. His uniform gentlemanliness and kindness proved that he would be able to fill the position well.

Rev. A. E. Calvert, of the Norwich District, nominated Rev. W. A. Hammond. He said that when he had read the list of names sent on for nomination, he congratulated himself that he would have the honour of nominating the best man. Mr. Hammond had spent the whole of his ministry in East Anglia, but was known throughout the connexion, as he had for many years done effective service on the Connexional Committees. Last year the Conference honoured Mr. Hammond and itself by appointing him as the Secretary, and yesterday, in moving the thanks of the Conference, the General Committee Secretary paid a high tribute to the painstaking manner in which Mr. Hammond had done the work. Mr. Hammond was at home in business, and one of the few men who were cut out for purely business work. The resolution was seconded.

Rev. A. Beavan nominated Rev. J. Yearsley, of the Manchester District. He said if they lived in Manchester they would not require two minutes argument to prove the splendid fitness of Mr. Yearsley for this office. Mr. Yearsley was a genius, and he had every confidence in recommending him. The resolution was seconded.

Rev. J. Blaney had pleasure in nominating Rev. S. Mincher, of the Bristol District. This was seconded.

Rev. G. Trusler nominated the Rev. T. Saunders, of the London Second District, and said that Mr. Saunders possessed every qualification that had been mentioned by all the other nominators. The resolution was seconded.

Rev. J. Dodd Jackson in nominating the Rev. J. Mayles, of the Liverpool District, said it was a very common thing to appoint men to offices because they were worthy, and also to appoint them because they had ability. Mr. Mayles possessed both qualifications. He had been in the ministry 23 years and had given proof that he possessed business ability of no mean order. He was a man of strong physique, though, said Mr. Jackson, 'this Conference runs to mind.' He was 47 years of age, and would not take decrepitude into the position, neither would he be worn out when he left it. He had an amiable disposition and was full of kindness of heart, and if elected would fill the position with credit. The resolution was seconded.

Mr. Henry Adams nominated Rev. P. Nume, of the Sheffield District, who was 48 years of age and had travelled 26 years. He had held various offices in the District for eight years and had travelled on important circuits with success. The resolution was seconded.

Rev. James Keightley nominated Rev. W. E. Waumsley, of the Grimsby and Lincoln District, who had been associated from early life with the publishing business; and, said he, that should be a strong qualification for the office. He had served his District very admirably as Sunday School Secretary. He had also held the position of Building Committee Secretary for some years.

The resolution was seconded.

Rev. W. Younger nominated Rev. E. Phillipson, of the Darlington and Stockton District, and said that Mr. Phillipson had these, but he was one of the best business men the Church possessed. A shrewd man had said that if Mr. Phillipson had given himself to business life he would have become a commercial prince. He had built 18 chapels and several ministers' houses, at a total cost of £27,000, of which amount he had raised £21,000, which was a record that had not been surpassed in the history of their church. The resolution was seconded.

Rev. F. E. Heape nominated Rev. G. W. King, of Bradford and Halifax District, who had done splendid work in his District, was 48 years of age, and had travelled 26 years. This was seconded.

In nominating Rev. W. L. Taylor, of the South Wales District, the Rev. J. P. Bellingham said Mr. Taylor had received a good training in the book business and was well fitted for the post. The resolution was seconded.

The Rev. J. W. Venables nominated Rev. J. A. Cheeseman, of the Lynn and Cambridge District, and the nomination was seconded.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) nominated the Rev. Joseph Johnson, of London, who, he said, had only had three circuits during the whole of his ministry. He was a good financier, and on one of his circuits had cleared off the whole of the debts. He was six years on the Board of Guardians, ten years a District Sunday School Secretary, and for three years had been Secretary of the Bible and Prayer Union. Mr. Johnson did a great deal of literary work in London, where he was a well-known man. The resolution was seconded.

The result of the first ballot was as follows:—

G. P. Clark, 12.	J. Mayles, 16.
J. H. Hemshall, 14.	P. Nume, 16.
H. Pratt, 17.	W. E. Waumsley, 8.
W. A. Hammond, 23.	E. Phillipson, 20.
J. Yearsley, 13.	G. W. King, 12.
S. Mincher, 3.	W. L. Taylor, 6.
T. Saunders, 7.	J. A. Cheeseman, 5.
J. Johnson, 35.	

There were 207 votes cast.

## SECOND BALLOT.

G. P. Clark, 12.	J. Mayles, 21.
J. H. Hemshall, 13.	P. Nume, 19.
H. Pratt, 17.	E. Phillipson, 19.
W. A. Hammond, 37.	G. W. King, 11.
J. Yearsley, 13.	J. Johnson, 46.

Total votes recorded 238.

## THIRD BALLOT.

H. Pratt, 16.	P. Nume, 19.
W. A. Hammond, 63.	E. Phillipson, 22.
J. Mayles, 36.	J. Johnson, 49.

Votes cast, 205.

## FOURTH BALLOT.

W. A. Hammond, 115.	J. Mayles, 36.
J. Johnson, 55.	

The Rev. Thomas Jackson (scrutineer) moved that as Rev. W. A. Hammond had received a clear majority of votes cast, he be Vice-Book Steward. This was at once seconded by Rev. J. Johnson and carried with acclamation.

The Rev. W. A. Hammond thanked the Conference for their recognition of his years of service, and said it had been a great joy to him to spend so many years in the service of his church. Again and again his own District had nominated him for various offices, but Providence had ordained that he should be reserved for the office to which they had just elected him. If spared to enter upon the duties it would be with the consciousness that he was succeeding great and clever men, but he assured them that he would do his best. The lack of a College training had been a great disadvantage to him, but he had received a good business training, and those years of experience in business life would not have been wasted if they were consecrated to the service of the church he loved.

## VICE DEPUTY TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

The election of the above was the next item on the Agenda.

The General Committee Secretary rose and stated that there had been some misconception as to what this office really was. It was a post in which there was much work associated with it, and he wanted to emphasise that there was no salary attached to it. It was also necessary that the man should live in London and be in close touch with the Missionary Secretary. Three years ago the office was associated with the Secretary of the Church Extension Fund, and he suggested that the two offices should run concurrently and be held by the same person again, and that the combined offices be considered as a Connexional Office.

Rev. James Pickett (General Missionary Secretary) pointed out that if the Conference appointed a separate Financial Secretary it would involve a claim upon the Missionary Funds of from £250 to £300, and further stated that before the two offices could be merged into one it would be necessary to legislate, as, according to existing rule, they had no power to make any alteration.

Rev. John Hallam thought it could be done by special resolution of Conference.

Rev. George Armstrong submitted that whilst the Conference had power to appoint a Vice it was most undesirable to do so, as in Mr. Mitchell they had a splendid man, and he hoped that he would be asked to retain the office.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) concurred with Mr. Pickett and said the matter was a very grave one, and the Connexional Courts had a right to have it before them for consideration and to enable them to send their desire to the next Conference.

Rev. J. Dodd Jackson asked whether it would be in order for the Conference to express its opinion on the matter now?

Mr. Rawlings (Vice-President) said it would be better for the Legislation to come forward in the usual way.

The Rev. John Hallam then moved that, 'Seeing the difficulty at present attached to the appointment of the Vice Deputy Treasurer and Financial Secretary, they remitted the whole question of the consideration of that office to the General Committee for it to prepare legislation for next Conference.'

This was seconded and carried.

The Rev. J. Dodd Jackson then moved 'That the legislation of the General Committee be submitted to the District Meetings for their consideration.' He thought that the District Meetings were worthy of being taken into confidence on such a matter.

This was seconded and adopted.

## THE HARTLEY LECTURE.

The Rev. James Pickett moved the following resolution:— 'This Conference places on record its high appreciation of the Hartley Lecture on 'Christian Benevolence, with special reference to Systematic Giving,' by the Rev. Thomas Mitchell, and desires to thank him for the same.'

The Rev. A. Beavan seconded the resolution, and said that he was greatly delighted with the lecture, and that it would do great good if all their people could be familiarised with the principles which the lecture contained.

Mr. Rawlings (Vice President), in submitting the resolution, assured the Conference that the lecture was a good one, and that the best thing they could do was to buy the book and read it.

The resolution was adopted and the Rev. T. Mitchell, in reply, said that he thanked the Conference for such a vote. He assured them that the task was a congenial one and that if they could all be led to adopt the principles of the lecture it would help to solve many of their financial difficulties.

## ELECTION OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SECRETARY.

The Rev. H. Yooll (Editor) nominated the Rev. W. Spedding for the office of C.E. Secretaryship. He said that Mr. Spedding had been nominated by four Districts. He had had considerable experience also of Sunday School Union Work, and had been six years on the Central Council of the C.E. He had taken part in the formulation of the C.D. constitution and had published a book on the subject. He had special aptitude for the office, possessed literary qualifications, was a correct secretary, and had good popular and platform abilities. This was seconded.

The Rev. Tyler Tyers nominated the Rev. G. G. Martindale (Nottingham District). Mr. Martindale, he said, had travelled 25 years, had been a District Sunday school secretary and also District secretary. He had been much interested in the C.E. Holiday Tours, in connection with which he had been ready to take a good share of work. He said that Mr. Martindale was a born secretary, and would discharge the duties of such an office with satisfaction and credit. The resolution was seconded.

The Rev. R. Harrison (ex-President) nominated the Rev. H. O. H. Richardson, of Hull. He felt that it was impossible for him to state the high qualifications which Mr. Richardson possessed for such a position. He was a model secretary, thoroughly interested in young life, and had proved his ability by the work which he had done. He was sure that if the office was to be ably filled the Conference would have to vote for Mr. Richardson.

Mr. M. Yelder nominated the Rev. W. C. T. Parker. Though Mr. Parker might not be a born secretary, yet he assured them that he was a good penman, generous, and had always stood up for Primitive Methodism in the National C.E. Council Meetings. He had also been nominated as Chairman of the National C.E. Council. This was seconded.

The Rev. W. Curry, in nominating the Rev. G. Hunt, said that Mr. Hunt was methodical, had been a C.E. Secretary for five years, had acted on the local Council for the National Convention, was in full sympathy with young life, and was a C.E. enthusiast. This was seconded.

The Rev. W. Wheeler (Leeds and York) nominated the Rev. George Ayre, and said that Mr. Ayre was an enthusiast in C.E. work and was no mean authority on that subject. He had done much hard work for the C.E. movement, and was eminently fitted for the position. This was seconded.

Mr. Skinner nominated the Rev. Joseph Pearce. He was sure that all the good things that had been said about others were true of Mr. Pearce. He was careful and accurate and greatly interested in C.E. work. This was seconded.

The Rev. F. Jeffs (Sheffield) nominated the Rev. J. T. Ecob. He said that their district had a high opinion of Mr. Ecob. He was a good secretary and would render good service in that office. This was seconded.

The Rev. J. Redhead nominated Mr. T. R. Watkinson, of Grimsby. Their district, he said, were going in for a new departure in nominating Mr. Watkinson, who was greatly interested in C.E. work and also in Sunday schools. For the last five years Mr. Watkinson had been the C.E. Secretary in their district, and he thought that there could be no better appointment to the office than that of the gentleman named. This was seconded.

The Rev. J. W. Cotton nominated the Rev. Charles Humble. He was a brother of good gifts, had been two years District Sunday School secretary, had held the office of Temperance secretary and possessed great secretarial ability, and their district regarded Mr. Humble as an ideal man for the position.

Mr. W. Cooper (Carlisle and Whitehaven) nominated the Rev. F. Richardson, who, he said, was enthusiastic in C.E. work, had been appointed to the secretariat of the Cumberland C.E. Union, and had great interest in young people. This was seconded.

The Rev. W. Fidoe (Bradford and Halifax) nominated the Rev. W. Pedley. He said that Mr. Pedley had been a minister for 25 years, was in the prime of life, and was a man of popular gifts and of wide sympathies. This was seconded.

Mrs. Henry Bennett (a lady-delegate) nominated the Rev. J. W. Whittaker, who, she hoped, would be at the top of the poll. Words failed her when she tried to say all that she felt about Mr. Whittaker's fitness for the office of C. E. Secretary, and she was sure that if the Conference elected him, he would do good work.

The vote was taken and the result was as follows:—

## First Ballot.

W. Spedding, 62.	Jos. Pearce, 7.
G. G. Martindale, 14.	J. T. Ecob, 9.
H. O. H. Richardson, 31.	T. R. Watkinson, 9.
W. C. T. Parker, 7.	C. Humble, 11.
G. Hunt, 10.	F. Richardson, 6.
G. Ayre, 8.	W. Pedley, 15.
J. W. Whittaker, 6.	

## Second Ballot.

W. Spedding, 118.	H. O. H. Richardson, 50.
G. G. Martindale, 21.	W. Pedley, 12.

The Rev. W. Spedding having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared elected. On proceeding to the platform Mr. Spedding had a most hearty welcome, and in acknowledgment of the vote said that he thanked the Conference for the honour conferred on him. He felt that in succeeding such an able secretary as the Rev. George Bennett he had no light task to take up. However, he could promise them that he would give the best that he had to the duties of the office.

## FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

Councillor S. Hilton (Mayor of Leicester) moved that they should send their greetings by telegram to the Methodist New Connexion Conference, at present assembled in Leeds.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) remarked that it had been the custom for them to receive greetings and then reply to the same.

Councillor Hilton suggested that they might, on this occasion, act on the scriptural principle, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

The Rev. R. Hind explained that, together with Mr. Beckworth, he had represented their Church in the Methodist New Connexion Conference, and he thought that that might have been regarded by the said Conference as a conveyance of their greetings to them. He also said that the President of the Methodist New Connexion Conference had requested him



to communicate their greetings. Yet he thought it would be a very nice thing for them to send a telegram of greeting.

The resolution was then seconded and adopted.

LETTER OF SYMPATHY.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) intimated that he had received news of the death of a sister of the Rev. R. S. Blair, and he moved that a letter of sympathy should be sent.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

The Conference then adjourned.

Thursday afternoon, June 15th.

The President (Rev. G. E. Butt) announced the hymn:—

‘Spirit of Faith come down,’

after the singing of which the Rev. J. Dodd Jackson led the Conference in prayer. Hymn No. 24, ‘My faith looks up to Thee,’ was then sung.

NEXT CONFERENCE.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that the Conference of 1906 be held at Manchester, in the Great Western Street Chapel, on June 14th.

This was seconded and adopted.

The Rev. John Welford also reported that as the Leicester Circuits had signified their willingness to accept the Conference of 1907, he moved that a record be made of the same. This was adopted.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Henry Adams (Sheffield), who was very desirous that the representatives to next Conference should be appointed whilst most of the Conference Delegates were present, gave notice that he would move that the representatives be appointed on the following day.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPROVED LIST.		
Name.	District.	
Allport, Enoch ...	Grimsby and Lincoln	
Bower, Charles R. ...	Missions	
Brown, William ...	Liverpool	
Clulow, William F. ...	Hull	
Clark, Frederick H. ...	Missions	
Cousin, Isaac ...	Grimsby and Lincoln	
Caddock, John M. ...	South Wales	
Dyson, John ...	London I.	
Elliott, John K. ...	Liverpool	
Emmett, George ...	Sunderland & Newcastle	
Featon, Thomas ...	Manchester	
Gallon, John T. ...	Darlington and Stockton	
Goodacre, John T. ...	Nottingham	
Goodwin, Rowland B. ...	Sunderland & Newcastle	
Goodreid, William E. ...	Sunderland & Newcastle	
Grainger, Joseph ...	Liverpool	
Hemp, William J. ...	Leeds and York	
Hodson, Joseph, J., M.A. ...	Missions	
Hosier, William T. ...	Missions	
Humble, Frederick ...	Manchester	
Jackson, L. James ...	Manchester	
James, Percy W. ...	Manchester	
Kelley, Thomas A. ...	West Midland	
Kershaw, John A. ...	Birkenhead I.	
Lees, Ambrose G.A. ...	Liverpool	
Matthews, W. H. M. ...	Lynn and Cambridge	
Morrison, John ...	Bradford and Halifax	
Mowforth, Stephen E. ...	Lynn and Cambridge	
Pearce, Frank P. ...	Norwich	
Pearce, Mark P. ...	Sheffield	
Potter, William ...	London II.	
Powell, Phillip H. (pledge 1900) ...	Norwich	
Ramsey, Joseph ...	Shrewsbury	
Robson, William (2) ...	Brinkworth and Swindon	
Ridley, John T. ...	Manchester	
Sandford, Thomas ...	North British	
Taylor, John T. ...	Darlington and Stockton	
Wardle, William L., B.D. ...	Theological Institute	
Wellburn, George, B.A. ...	Missions	
Yeomans, Francis E. ...	Missions	
Young, Frederick A. ...	Grimsby and Lincoln	

NEW ZEALAND.

Featherstone, Jacob Woolloxall, Thomas R.

The General Committee Secretary, the Rev. J. Welford, moved that the above Probationers be accepted, they having passed the required Examinations and had been recommended by their respective District Meetings.

PLEDGES OF PROBATIONERS.		
The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that as the pledges of the following Probationers had been received by the General Committee they are hereby accepted by the Conference, to date from the Conference of 1904 unless otherwise stated		
Name.	Station.	
Ashworth, John A. ...	Balham	
Baggott, James L. ...	Missionary Committee	
Barrett, Richard J. ...	Kilburn	
Bedford, John H. ...	Shieldmuir Branch	
Bonney, Thomas... ...	Missionary Committee	
Bowden, John W. ...	Malton	
Brown, Oswald E. ...	Dalton and Millom	
Chamberlain, Henry ...	Holt and Sheringham	
Chesworth, Stanley K. ...	Missionary Committee	
Clark, James ...	Lowick	
Cooke, David ...	Leicester I.	
Davidson, Frank C. ...	Bradley Green	
Dawson, William ...	Motherwell	
Dixon, John H. ...	Appleby Branch	
Fairweather, Thomas A. ...	Biggleswade Branch	
Farndale, William E. ...	(pledge to date from 1903.)	
Fisher, Ernest E. ...	Forest Hill	
Fletcher, William R. G. ...	Andover	
Hill, Abraham ...	Ipswich and Hadleigh	
Hughes, William ...	Missionary Committee	
Humphris, Wallace P. A. ...	Sheffield III.	
Jones, Frank ...	Portsmouth I.	
	Edinburgh	

Kerswell, John A. ...	Missionary Committee
Marston, Laban ...	Missionary Committee
Matthews, H. Ward ...	Sheffield IV.
Meadley, George W. ...	Southampton I.
Norton, John ...	Leicester IV.
Palmer, James ...	Normanton
Pope, Harold W. ...	High Wycombe
Rose, Richard ...	Grassington
Shaw, Thomas ...	Saltburn-by-the-Sea
Smith, Aaron (2) ...	Workington
Smith, Frederick T. ...	Missionary Committee
Steen, Edward A. ...	Whitehaven
Stoddard, Frank ...	Wakefield I.
Taylor, Henry ...	Hemsworth
Wightman, Arthur ...	Liverpool III.
Windram, Shirley ...	Missionary Committee
Woodley, William ...	Pontypool

NEW ZEALAND.

Harris, John Metson, Basil.

PROBATIONERS UNPLEGDED.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) moved that a record be made that the following Probationers are appointed by Conference, but that their pledges are not provided for:—William A. R. Collins, 1902; William Robson (3) 1902; Walter Easey, 1902; James M. Ridge, 1903; William H. Maxwell, 1903; G. Kirtley Fawell, 1903; Francis J. Harper, 1904; Herbert Lancaster, 1904.

NEW STATIONS.

The next business was to consider applications for the formation of New Stations.

On the application of the Hull District to form Hull Seventh (Lambert Street and Cottingham) from Hull Second there followed a lively discussion. Mr. Lodge, a lay delegate, thought that the tendency to form small stations was against the interests of Primitive Methodism. He regarded Pastors and Pastorates as a nuisance. He himself was on a Mission Station, and they had young men whom they would like to become local preachers, but they asked, ‘What was there for them to do?’ He considered that Methodism was being killed by the tendency to form pastorates, against which he entered his protest.

The Rev. R. Harrison (Ex-president) said that he sympathised with the remarks of the last speaker. He also deplored the tendency to sub-divide their Circuits, but not for the reason the previous speaker had named. He said he hoped the request of the Hull District would be granted.

Mr. T. Lawrence, of Leicester, said that whilst he was not prepared to disallow the formation of the new circuit, yet he would like to say a few words respecting the tendency which had been previously named. He was sure that they could not circumscribe the sphere of Local Preachers without affecting the character of the Ministry. He would like to safeguard the Ministry against becoming a mere profession. It should be regarded as a Divine call through the Church; but how was the Church to discover the graces and gifts of their young men if they destroyed the sphere of the Local Preachers’ usefulness. It was essential to the efficiency of the Ministry that they should guard against any such thing. He thought that the present tendency was too much in the direction of Congregationalism. The very genius of Primitive Methodism was centred in the Circuit system, and though he was not prepared to oppose the Hull friends in their application, he did wish the Conference to preserve their Connexional genius.

The Rev. James Shaw (Hull District) said that the remarks made did not apply to the present case. The idea of the division was to open a Mission to give a larger sphere of usefulness to local preachers. He hoped that this question of local preachers would not be allowed to interfere with the desire of the circuit for division.

The Rev. James Pickett (Missionary Secretary) said that he had opposed the application for division in the Stationing Committee, and that he was still in the same mind. He was sorry that certain elements had been introduced into the discussion, and he thought there should be no reflection on either ministers or local preachers. It was a fact, he said, that many of the divisions of circuits had been disastrous, and one consequence was that the Home Missionary Fund had been burdened. When divided, many of such stations had been unable to sustain themselves, and had become a heavy charge on the Connexional Funds. Having travelled on the circuit in question, he was sure that it could be divided on more equitable lines. He was afraid that if the present division was agreed to, it would create difficulties for the present circuit, which could scarcely be said to have given its consent to the division.

AN INTERRUPTION.

Rev. R. Harrison (ex-President), interrupting the speaker said that he could not allow the implication that the Circuit had not given consent.

The Rev. James Shaw claimed that after the speech of Mr. Pickett he should be obliged to ask the Conference to hear the documents on the case.

MR. PICKETT AGAIN.

Mr. Pickett (continuing) said that he had not the slightest disposition to suggest anything that would create irritation, though he knew that in such cases many things did not get into documents. His desire was to safe-guard their connexional interests in the large towns and cities. He should therefore vote against the division of that circuit.

Several other Delegates rose to speak, but it was moved that the question be put. On being put to the vote there was a majority in favour of the application, which was therefore granted.

The Conference then adjourned for Committee work for the remainder of the afternoon.

FRIDAY Morning, June 16th.

The Conference resumed its sittings at 9 o'clock this morning. The President (Rev. G. E. Butt) gave out the hymn, ‘Count your Blessings,’ which the Delegates sang very heartily.

A portion of Scripture was then read, after which the President asked Mr. J. Spooner and Rev. George Trusler to lead the devotions. Hymn No. 34 was rendered with great spirit,

the Conference then settled down to business, the first item being the reading of the Conference Journal containing the previous day’s proceedings, which was done by the Conference Secretary (Rev. W. A. French.)

FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

A telegram from the Methodist New Connexion Conference, in Session at Leeds, was enthusiastically received, which read as follows:—

‘Fraternal Greetings reciprocated, rejoice in your success; pray you may be Divinely guided and the blessing of God be upon all your Sessions.’

Rev. J. Dodd Jackson desired to say how very delighted many people were at the stand the Methodist New Connexion Conference had taken with reference to their proposed union with the Wesleyan Church.

NEW STATIONS (continued).

The application from the Manchester District to make Unsworth and Prestwich, hitherto a branch of Manchester Third Station, into a new station, with one minister, four local preachers, and 100 members, to be under the supervision of the District Missionary Committee, was granted.

The application from the Leeds and York District, that Hemsley, being hitherto a branch of the Pickering Circuit, with eight places, one minister, 10 local preachers, and 139 members, was granted.

The next application was from the Salisbury and Southampton District, that two new stations be made from the Motcombe Station as follows:—

I. Mere, with five places, one minister, 13 local preachers, and 154 members.

II. Shaftesbury, with nine places, one minister, 15 local preachers, and 163 members.

This application led to considerable discussion.

Rev. A. J. Bull said this division was sought solely for the better internal working and the carrying on of the work of God. He wished to emphasise the fact that there had been no quarrel which had led to a desire for division. Motcombe was a wide country circuit, and much unnecessary time and labour in the past had been spent on the roads which could have been utilized in the study and in visiting the people. He said that the great bug-bear in the Conference official circle was the fear that in the course of time these new stations would be applying for a grant from the Sustentation Fund, but he wished to assure them they need have no fear from that standpoint. The division movement had been on foot for a number of years, but no practical scheme had been adopted until now, and he urged that if they carried the recommendation, they would not have cause to regret it in the coming days.

The Rev. Robert Harrison (ex-President) thought the Conference should hesitate before making such a division.

Mr. Henry Adams (Sheffield), said the Conference should remember the difficulty they were now having in the Stationing Committee in securing Superintendents, and he reminded them that every new circuit created made the difficulty greater. Already they had been obliged to put Probationers down to superintend circuits, and he submitted that it was not a wise thing to do to put probationers at the head of Circuits; and further, he reminded them that the making of small circuits, crippled their power of ability to extend, and he asked them to pause before granting the application.

Rev. William Cutts (Deed Poll) was in favour of having a good big circuit and liked the old fashioned way in which the superintendents in the old days were spoken of as the ‘all round preacher,’ and he hoped the division would not be made.

Rev. A. E. Calvert strongly supported the application, and said that they had heard much about sympathy with the rural districts at that Conference, but when it came to practical help to the villages it was conspicuous by its absence. The strongest argument set forth thus far against the proposal had been that one strong circuit should not be made into three small and weak ones, but he wished to point out that they had that day already made similar circuits. The Motcombe Circuit had already been divided for all practical purposes for some time, as they had been working sectionally and with perfect harmony and success, and all they asked the Conference to do was to give sanction to a system which now obtained and make the sections into constitutional Stations.

Rev. John Hallam said they were talking not upon a particular case, but on the principle of division. He wanted the Conference to separate the question of visitation from either a large or a small circuit. If a minister felt it to be his duty to visit, he would do it whether in a pastorate or a large circuit. They would not settle the question of visitation by the character of a circuit. The most powerful circuit he had ever travelled on made no extension for over 20 years, and not until it began to divide did it take up the question of extension. As that circuit was entirely a country circuit, he asked the Conference to pause before it declined to grant the request.

Rev. W. L. Taylor (South Wales) had travelled on the circuit and said it was a strong Station, out of which other Stations had grown. The decline of membership was owing to lack of concentration of labour, and that would be arrested if the division were granted.

The Rev. Thomas Jackson (Chairman of the Stationing Committee) said the Stationing Committee had unanimously decided that it was undesirable to divide so strong and vigorous a country station into three circuits, with one minister to each. He said the Committee was not lacking in sympathy with and for agricultural circuits, but he did not believe, as had been stated, that there was an increasing difficulty arising from the fact that young men coming out of College had a dislike to go to circuits where so much time was spent on the roads. He could not believe that their young men considered it a waste of time to go on country roads to preach the gospel in the villages.

Rev. Henry J. Pickett said the cases should be judged on their merits; the present case was no parallel to the one cited by Mr. Calvert. In the proposal before them the circuits would be composed of villages sparsely populated, but in the other cases there was a large population. His objection to the division was the fact that each of the proposed circuits would have only one minister, who would seldom be in the same pulpit, and this would not be helpful from the standpoint of pulpit efficiency.

The President of Conference (Rev. G. E. Butt) said he was a native of the Circuit in question, and in his early days it was very much wider than now, as other Stations had since been

made from it. He would like to call their attention to the fact that at the head of each of the new Circuits there would be a town, which, if it were in Africa or America, would be called a city. He also emphasised that on the Station there were a lot of level-headed godly officials, who had thoroughly considered the matter, and had come to the conclusion that it was the best thing in the interests of the Station, and he hoped the Conference would grant the division.

#### A QUESTION OF PROCEDURE.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings), who was in the chair, was about to put the resolution when the Rev. A. J. Bull rose to a point of order.

The Vice-President ruled that Mr. Bull could not rise to a point of order when he, the chairman, was on his feet.

This ruling was resented by a large number of the Delegates.

Mr. Bull was then asked by the Vice-President to state his point of order, whereupon he proceeded to make a second speech upon the subject, but was immediately called to order himself.

In submitting the motion, the Vice-President (Mr. Rawlings) remarked, 'It seems I was right after all in my ruling.'

The vote was then taken, and the resolution carried.

The General Missionary Secretary (Rev. James Pickett) moved, on behalf of the Missions District, that Woburn Sands Circuit and the Buckingham Mission become one Station, to be called the Wolverton and Stantonbury Station. He said there had grown up between these two Stations, not merely on the fringe, but right in the centre and heart of both, a strong town, and with a strong Superintendent and two colleagues, it would lead to greater success than in their divided form.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) seconded. Rev. J. H. Green said he was from the adjoining Station, and he believed it would be the best thing to do, whereupon the resolution was carried.

#### LAMB SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

The following were elected—Revs. H. J. Pickett, R. Harrison, J. Dodd Jackson, and Thomas Jackson; Messrs. Thomas Robinson, E. Cross, Henry Adams, R. Sharpe, Councillor G. Green, Councillor H. Green, J. M. Nicholson, and J. J. Smith.

#### PASSIVE RESISTERS.

The Rev. J. Pickett moved that as several local Passive Resisters were to appear before the Court that morning the Rev. A. T. Guttery be requested to attend the proceedings of the Court as an expression of their sympathy. This was seconded and carried. In response to the resolution Rev. A. T. Guttery said that he would be proud to do as they had requested, though he supposed that he would not be heard. He humorously remarked that according to the Conference Plan all the Processions on Sunday were to march to the 'police station.' (Loud Cheers.)

#### A FRESH ARRIVAL.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) intimated that Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., had arrived, and he moved that he be received. In response, Mr. Beckworth said that he must apologise for arriving so late. As they knew, he had attended the Methodist New Connexion Conference as their representative, and he hoped that when the Methodist New Connexion representatives arrived they would give them as cordial a welcome as he had received.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford the following applications were granted on the conditions named:—

Hull District—Selby, relief from taking a second married minister. 12 places, 268 members. Relief asked for on financial grounds.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into Connexional Fund.

Sunderland and Newcastle—Berwick-on-Tweed, relief from taking a second married minister. 7 places, 303 members. Relief claimed on superannuation.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Thornley, relief from taking a second married minister. 11 places, 500 members. Relief asked for owing to closing of collieries, and Quarter Day responsibility for Horden Mission repayment.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Norwich District—Lowestoft, relief from taking a second married minister. 12 places, 385 members. Relief claimed on superannuation.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

East Dereham, relief from taking a second married minister. 22 places, 488 members. Relief asked for on financial grounds.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Manchester District—Bury, from a third married minister. 8 places, 525 members. Reason—Inability to raise the necessary funds.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Leigh, relief from a second married minister. 7 places, 474 members. Relief claimed on vacancy in the District through death.

Relief granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Brinkworth and Swindon District—Wallingford, relief from taking a second married minister. 14 places, 225 members. Relief asked for through inability to keep a second married minister.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

London First District—Saffron Walden, from taking a second married minister. 11 places, 277 members. Relief claimed on vacancy caused by death.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Wickhambrook and Newmarket, from taking a second married minister. 11 places, 312 members. Reason—Impossible to keep two married ministers.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

West Midland District—Ludlow, relief from taking a second

married minister. 18 places, 375 members. Relief claimed through resignation of Rev. C. S. Ball.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Birmingham Fourth, relief from taking a second married minister. 5 places, 320 members. Relief claimed on superannuation.

Complete relief granted.

Liverpool District—Liverpool Second, relief from a second married minister. 3 places, 300 members. Reason—financial inability.

Relief granted for 3 years.

Clitheroe, relief from an approved list minister. 2 places, 107 members. Reasons—financial.

Relief granted for one year and a probationer appointed.

Grimsby and Lincoln District—Horncastle, relief from a second married minister. 20 places, 388 members. Relief claimed on superannuation.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Market Rasen, relief from a second married minister. 16 places, 476 members. Relief claimed on superannuation.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Lynn and Cambridge District—Swaffham, relief claimed from taking a second married minister. 15 places, 480 members. Reasons—financial.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Docking, relief from taking a second married minister. 21 places, 485 members. Relief asked for through financial inability to meet present demands.

Granted on condition that £40 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Relief was granted to Birkenhead First on condition that £10 be paid into the Connexional Fund.

Pocklington Station was relieved of a second married minister.

#### The Rev. J. Flanagan: An Exciting Debate.

Few questions will awaken greater interest among the delegates of the Conference than did the appointment of the Rev. James Flanagan, who has been so long associated with St. George's Hall, and who has done such valuable service in connection with the Primitive Methodist cause in that centre.

The Rev. James Pickett (General Missionary Secretary) brought before the Conference a proposal as to Mr. Flanagan's future place and work. He said that Mr. Flanagan was held in such high esteem that there was no need for him (Mr. Pickett) to recite to the Conference what had been his history for the last few years. Three years ago, as they would know, Mr. Flanagan was set apart to raise money for the liquidation of the St. George's Hall property; and now that the three years were over, it was necessary that Mr. Flanagan's position for future years should be considered. He said that there had been correspondence with the officials and superintendent of St. George's Hall, and also with Mr. Flanagan himself; and he was glad to say that whilst they had not been able to meet Mr. Flanagan on every point, yet they had come to terms which were mutually agreeable. He reminded them that Mr. Flanagan was not in a state of health to bear the strain of a Connexional Evangelist, though they all knew that that was the kind of work for which he was best fitted; it had been decided, therefore, that Mr. Flanagan should be appointed as a Home Missionary Advocate and a Connexional Evangelist. In that case, he said, their brother would be able to do distinguished evangelistic work without having the strain of conducting ordinary evangelistic missions. He had the conviction that to put Mr. Flanagan down as an ordinary circuit preacher would be to lose the benefit of his great gifts. The Connexion, as a Connexion, deserved the services of Mr. Flanagan, as did also the General Missionary Committee. He would not say what the Missionary Committee had done in supporting Mr. Flanagan in his great work, but he felt that now his great gifts should be used for Connexional ends. He therefore moved that Mr. Flanagan should be set apart as a Home Missionary advocate and Connexional Evangelist. This was seconded.

In speaking to the resolution Mr. T. Robinson (Cleethorpes) said that he could go a long way with Mr. Pickett in what he said. They had got the splendid property at St. George's Hall as the result of Mr. Flanagan's efforts, and he felt that it would be against the interests of the work there to separate him from it. He said that Mr. Flanagan might retain his connection with St. George's Hall and be allowed to go about as a connexional evangelist. The thing he found fault with on the part of the connexion was, that Mr. Flanagan had been permitted to go about spending his great gifts in simply raising money.

Mr. W. Gledhill (St. George's Hall) said that he had been associated with Mr. Flanagan since the beginning of the scheme. He could safely say that a great and glorious work was going on at St. George's Hall, a work which amply repaid them for any sacrifice which had been made. Several important institutions had been established and were being sustained largely as the result of Mr. Flanagan's efforts, and they were unanimous in their desire to retain him in connection with the work there. They were looking at this matter, however, from a connexional, rather than from a parochial standpoint, and they were prepared to accept any decision to which the Conference might come. He said that he wished to call attention to the state of Mr. Flanagan's health, and he had grave doubts as to Mr. Flanagan's ability to carry on the work of an Evangelist. Why should they not allow Mr. Flanagan to remain at St. George's Hall and do all the good he could there? Why should they not allow him to stay at the place which was so dear to him? In conclusion, he wished it to be known that the officials at St. George's Hall had done their duty by Mr. Flanagan, and that they did not wish to turn him out.

The Rev. F. Jeffs inquired what was really meant by Mr. Flanagan being appointed as a Home Missionary advocate?

In reply to the question the Rev. James Pickett said that Mr. Flanagan would do for Home Missions what their returned missionaries did for Foreign Missions; but that the main idea was that Mr. Flanagan should be relieved of the strain of ordinary Evangelistic work.

#### St. George's Hall Superintendent.

The Rev. Joseph Johnson (St. George's Hall superintendent) said that he would like to follow along the lines of Mr. Robinson and Mr. Gledhill in their remarks. Some time ago he said that he had told Mr. Flanagan it was necessary for them to have a little private consultation as to their relations to St. George's Hall. He then assured Mr. Flanagan that as he had been going over the country for several years asking them for a workshop, and as that workshop was now an actual thing, if he (Mr. Flanagan) wished to remain there he was quite prepared for that and would be glad to be associated with him or go back to some other circuit. Mr. Flanagan, however, said that such a thing was absolutely impossible. He said that the institutions had so multiplied, and the departments were so various, that to attend to them would worry the life out of him, but that he should like to remain associated with the Mission. That desire, said Mr. Johnson, was laid before the Mission authorities and thoroughly gone into, and they were unanimous in their desire that Mr. Flanagan should remain. He then proceeded to say that Mr. Flanagan had only consented to become a Missionary Advocate under pressure, and that it was Mr. Flanagan's desire, and that of his family, to remain in connection with St. George's Hall. He was sure that the Mission officials would deeply regret Mr. Flanagan's being taken away from them, for in many ways the Mission would then suffer. He then referred to the amount of secretarial work that had to be done in connection with the Mission, and also to various improvements and developments that were necessary, and he assured the Conference that no man could do all the work that was to be done, and therefore he would be very grateful if he could have Mr. Flanagan by his side.

#### A Voice from New Zealand.

Mr. Luke (New Zealand) said that a trip to New Zealand would undoubtedly do Mr. Flanagan's health a great deal of good, and as the tendency with their people was to grow materialistic, a visit from Mr. Flanagan would be a great blessing. He was instructed to say that if such a visit could be arranged their Conference would subscribe £200 towards Mr. Flanagan's expenses.

#### A Wide Outlook.

The Rev. J. Dodd Jackson said that the question was between the interests of those in a small area and the interests of the whole Connexion. He was anxious that the interests of the Connexion should be served. In relation to Mr. Flanagan's services he was sure that St. George's Hall had no ground for complaint, and he thought that the Connexion's turn had now come. They had been told how St. George's Hall was prospering, and though he knew that the Mission might do better with Mr. Flanagan, yet he thought it could do without him. From the standpoint of the Connexion he was sure that it would do a great deal of good to have a man like Mr. Flanagan moving about amongst them.

The Rev. W. Younger rose to support the proposals of Mr. Pickett. He thought that those proposals took the direction in which the church ought to go. If they needed anything at that moment it was a group of men who would set their churches on fire. If, during next winter, Mr. Flanagan could give himself to evangelistic work it would be the means of a great Connexional increase, and that was more important than setting Mr. Flanagan down at St. George's Hall. He apprehended that the result would be that they would have young men rising up who would go about seeking to convert men.

The Rev. Thomas Jackson (Whitechapel Mission) said that no one at the Conference had greater appreciation of the work which had been done at St. George's Hall than he had, and the Missions District had a very high estimate of Mr. Flanagan's worth, yet he would like the Conference to remember that there were other missions besides that at St. George's Hall, and without attempting to depreciate St. George's Hall, he claimed that attention should be given to their decisions as the Missions District.

#### An Effective Reply.

In reply to the discussion, the Rev. James Pickett said that there was no desire to separate Mr. Flanagan from St. George's Hall, nor to deprive the friends there of Mr. Flanagan's services altogether. Whilst appreciating the feeling expressed by Mr. Gledhill, yet he was prepared to take his stand on the principle outlined by the Rev. Dodd Jackson. He said that Mr. Flanagan had been retained at St. George's Hall as long as the necessity was there, and he thought that the time had come for Mr. Flanagan to be set aside for the larger interests of the Connexion. It would be a waste of Mr. Flanagan's gifts for him to have to do the kind of detail work to which Mr. Johnson had referred, and he was sure that there was no need to have two men, such as Mr. Johnson and Mr. Flanagan, on the ground at St. George's Hall.

The resolution was then carried almost unanimously, and the Rev. J. Flanagan was appointed as a Home Missionary Advocate and Connexional Evangelist.

Friday afternoon, June 16.

The Sessions were resumed at 2 o'clock, the President (Rev. G. E. Butt) in the Chair. After the opening hymn,

'I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,'

prayers were offered by Mr. Geo. Moss (member of Deed Poll) and the Rev. T. M. Pinnock, after which, 'I lift my heart to Thee,' was sung.

#### The Election of Four Persons.

The Rev. J. Welford (General Committee Secretary) stated that legislation would be brought before the Conference next Thursday dealing with Representatives of Institutions and Committees. If that legislation should be adopted, it would considerably affect the election of the Four, therefore, the Agenda Committee had come to the conclusion that it would be undesirable and inadvisable to introduce that question now, but that the election of Four should follow immediately upon the decision of Conference in relation to that legislation. He, therefore, moved a resolution accordingly.

Mr. Henry Adams, of Sheffield, said the fixing of the next Conference ought to have carried with it the appointment of the Four representatives from that Conference. According to the legislation, the representation would be increased. His candid opinion was that there were more representatives than necessary already.



The President: You cannot go into that now.

Mr. Adams: Then I am against the recommendation of the Agenda Committee. You know very well that by next Thursday three parts of the lay delegates will be off, and therefore the representatives will not be appointed by the Conference, but by a fourth of them.

Councillor Cliff, of Mexborough, said he had the same objection to make. (Cries of 'Order'.)

The resolution was seconded and carried.

#### AN ADDITIONAL CONNEXIONAL EVANGELIST.

Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P. of Leeds, moved: 'That the recommendation of the General Missionary Committee, that the number of the Connexional Evangelists should be increased, be received and adopted, and the Rev. Joseph Odell shall be set apart for this work, the whole of the arrangements to be in the hands of the General Missionary Committee'—and in doing so he said it fell to his lot last year to move the resolution allowing Mr. Odell to have a year's rest to visit America, and he engaged to return and report himself to that Conference, which he would do before the close. The question of Mr. Odell's future work had been a matter of concern to the special Evangelistic Committee.

The Committee had found that the demand for Evangelistic work had grown and it was impossible for the men set apart to comply with the requests that came in. During the nine months in which Evangelistic work is carried on the Rev. W. R. Bird had only been able to supply 18 out of about 150 applications which had been made. They could quite understand how much disappointment there was in the circuits when they could not have the Missioner. That being so, and after the spiritual awakening throughout the country, there was the prospect of a greater demand for such labour in the near future.

Happily, they had at their disposal to-day a Brother whose life-work had been on those lines, and whose heart was in that work, who was an expert in spiritual work and gifted with that subtle something, which he would call unction; and they could not do a wiser or a better thing in the interests of the Church than to set apart Mr. Odell for that work, which would be entirely in harmony with his own desire. He had pleasure in moving the resolution.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### FIRST DRAFT OF STATIONS.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) presented the First Draft of Stations, and after several alterations had been made it was finally adopted, and a copy sent to each person and station affected.

#### PROBATIONERS' GENERAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the following report be adopted. The resolution was seconded and carried:—

In accordance with rule we have conducted the examination of the probationers in our ministry, a special examination having also been held in December last for men who were in arrears.

One hundred and fifty-five probationers presented themselves for examination, and with a few exceptions all of these obtained the requisite number of marks.

The following are deserving of special mention as having obtained more than 90 per cent. of the maximum:—P. W. B. Oliver, J. L. Baggott, J. R. Fell, L. Kenish, and G. W. Wellburn, B.A.

We regret to have to report that a number of the probationers did not present themselves for examination. The preventing cause in most instances was illness, but there were one or two cases where the excuse offered for absence was not such as this Committee is empowered to accept. We have passed resolutions on all these cases and forward them to you for your consideration.

Other matters, such as a change in the Greek text of the New Testament prescribed for the examination, the revision of the probationary scheme of studies in view of the opening of the College enlargement, etc., have engaged our attention.

We cannot forward this report without recording our sense of the loss which this Committee has sustained through the death of the Rev. Daniel Neilson, B.D. He was for many years one of its active members, and during the last three years had filled the office of secretary, bringing to his duties a diligence and a fidelity which were much to be admired.

#### NO MORE LETTERS.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the decision of last Conference be rescinded, and that the probationers be informed that no letters from the Secretary as to the result of their examinations would be sent. The results would be published in the Connexional papers.

In seconding the motion the Rev. H. J. Pickett said that there was no need for letters to be sent as the results were published in the Connexional papers, and now that the *Primitive Methodist Leader* had appeared the young men were sure to hear the results by that means.

The Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., said that the men who failed got to know the next day, and he thought that the men who had succeeded could afford to wait a few days for the information.

#### AN APPEAL FOR SYMPATHY.

Rev. James Shaw (General Committee Delegate Hull District) made a special plea on behalf of Rev. G. K. Chesworth, second year probationer, who had failed to pass his examination by five marks. Mr. Shaw urged the Conference to grant the marks, owing to the fact that the young brother had been unfortunately situated during the year, having been taken from his circuit to supply for the President. He had also given too little attention to his Hebrew, and had therefore been let down in that subject. He moved that the marks be allowed.

Rev. W. Welford thought that if the young man had failed only on Hebrew, and had got 75 per cent. on all other subjects, he had failed where many of them would have failed also, and he seconded the resolution.

Rev. James Pickett (General Missionary Secretary) said the Examining Committee was a committee of experts, and their judgment should be final, as they knew all the circumstances of each case, and he objected to their interference with the findings of the Committee.

The motion was then put to the meeting and lost.

#### A SPECIAL PROBATIONER.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that in harmony with the resolution of Conference of 1903

the Rev. W. L. Wardle, B.D., Tutor at the Theological Institute, be received on the Approved List, although he has not sat for examination. The resolution was seconded and adopted.

#### OTHER SPECIAL CASES.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that as Rev. P. H. Powell has satisfied the requirements of the Examining Committee, both as to the current year and his arrears, he be placed on the Approved List, and his years travelling date from 1900. Seconded and carried.

The General Committee Secretary moved that Rev. J. H. Kershaw have one year added to his probation without Examination. This was seconded and carried.

#### PROBATIONERS' EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) moved that the following be the Committee:—J. D. Thompson, A. L. Humphries, M.A., T. Parr, M.A., H. J. Taylor, W. Lee, B.A., J. Watts, D. Sheen, W. A. Hammond, H. B. Kendall, B.A., J. T. Horne, H. J. Pickett, M. P. Davison, M. Johnson, J. Burton, J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., Secretary.

The Rev. F. E. Heape asked if the nominations made by the District Meetings were useless.

The Rev. Joseph Johnson inquired if all the nominations of the Districts were before the Probationers' examining Committee when the above selection was made. Though he was in favour of the names suggested by Mr. Welford, still he thought that the District nominations had a right to be considered.

Rev. George Armstrong thought that the rights of the Conference should be regarded. He asked why the nominations should be made at all if the Committee was to practically elect itself?

The Rev. W. Younger inquired why the District Meetings were asked to make nominations if the Committee which made the selection met before the District Meetings?

The Rev. J. Gillender said that he would like to know on what principle the selection had been made.

The Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., replied that the selection was made on the ground of special knowledge and fitness.

The Rev. H. J. Pickett thought that it was the custom of the Conference to add the District nominations to the list prepared by the Committee and then vote on the whole.

The Rev. J. Griffen claimed that it would be disastrous if the continuity of the Committee were not maintained.

The Committee was elected.

#### CANDIDATES' GENERAL EXAMINING COMMITTEE REPORT

On the motion of the General Committee Secretary (Rev. John Welford) the following Report was adopted:—The Oral Examinations were duly held at the appointed time and places. One hundred and two candidates were recommended to the Quarterly Meeting as suitable for the ministry. Of these seven were rejected on the medical examination, thirty failed to satisfy the examiners, and sixty-five were sent forward to the Written Examination at the District Meetings.

In addition to these, sixteen candidates, who secured a place on the College list last year, but did not enter College, took the Written Examination this year, with a view of improving their position. Of the sixty-five who passed the Oral Examination, three did not sit, fourteen passed for the Reserve List, and forty-four for the College list. Two of the candidates are married men, and seven are over twenty-five years of age. Five of the candidates have expressed their willingness to enter either the Home or Foreign sphere of work, and eight are applying for the Lamb Scholarship.

We regret that during the past year the Rev. H. B. Kendall, B.A., felt it necessary, on the ground of health, to resign his position as one of the Oral Examiners and a member of this Committee. The General Committee very reluctantly accepted the resignation and appointed the Rev. G. Parkin, B.D., to fill the vacancy. Mr. Kendall has rendered in this, as in other departments of our Church administration, very effective service, and we have forwarded him a letter of appreciation.

#### THE CANDIDATES' EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The Rev. J. Welford (General Committee Secretary) moved that the following be the Committee:—J. Travis, G. Parkin, B.D., J. Welford, G. Lee, E. Hancox, H. Oliver, A. J. Campbell, A. T. Wardle, A. Bevan, J. Burditt, J. W. Fish, J. Jamieson, J. Dobson, I. Dorricott, W. B. Cheshire, P. O. Hirst, T. M. Pinnock, J. Wilson, J. Hall, C. Humble, R. Crewdson, J. Wilkinson, A. Smith, J. W. Venables, J. Turley, L. J. Harvey, W. Sawyer, G. Armitage, and J. Welford, Secretary. To meet at John Street Chapel, Sheffield, May 16th, 1906, at 9.30 a.m.

#### ORAL EXAMINERS.

The following were appointed as Oral Examiners for next year:—J. Travis, G. Parkin, B.D., and J. Welford. The examinations to be held at Harehills Avenue, Leeds, January 15th, 1906; Sparkhill Chapel, Birmingham, January 29th; Working Lads' Institute, London, February 5th, to commence at 2 p.m.

#### REPORT OF STUDENTS' EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved that the report of the Students' Examining Committee be received. This was seconded and adopted:—

We are pleased to inform you that with few exceptions all the Students sat for both the December and the May examinations.

We have exempted E. H. Peatfield from examination in five subjects as he intends sitting for the Inter. B.D. examination, London University, in June; and also F. N. Shumlin from examination in four subjects, as he purposes sitting for the Inter. B.A. examination, London University, in July.

Although J. Sanderson, second year's student, has failed to receive the minimum number of marks, through illness, we recommend his case for a station to the favourable consideration of the Conference.

We are pleased to place W. J. Walker, second year's student, in the Honours List, he having been awarded 1039 marks out of a possible 1100.

We regret to inform you that, owing to considerations of health, the Rev. W. Bowe, who has been secretary of this Committee for the past eight years, has felt compelled to tender his resignation both as secretary and member.

#### STUDENTS' EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

G. Parkin, B.D., J. D. Thompson, W. J. Davies, J. H. Taylor, M.A., and P. McPhail. G. Parkin, B.D., secretary.

#### College versus Non-College.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the list of College Probationers' names be printed in the Minutes in alpha-

betical order, and then in alphabetical order the names of those who were not College Probationers, but that there should be no distinction between the two classes of men.

The Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., explained that arrangement was necessary for the convenience of the examiners.

The Rev. George Trusler expressed himself strongly against any distinction being made between those who were College men and those who were not.

The Rev. James Pickett (General Missionary Secretary) also opposed the resolution, for it carried with it suggestions that might be very harmful. He thought it might damage the College men, as well as the men who had never been to College.

The Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., was sure that they did not wish to make any such distinction as had been suggested, and he said that the men themselves had requested that the change should be made.

The Rev. A. E. Calvert said that he did not know who were the 'uninitiated ones' referred to by Mr. Taylor, and he thought it would be a reflection that there should be two classes of men.

The resolution was not carried.

The Rev. J. Harryman Taylor, M.A., then said that there would have to be some understanding as to who were College men and who were not.

#### REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

On the motion of the General Committee Secretary the following report of the Theological Institute, Manchester, was adopted, viz:—

The work of the College curriculum has been steadily sustained during the year. Care has been taken not only to develop and inform the minds of the Students, but to cultivate their preaching powers, likewise to impress them with right aims in their future work, and with the necessity and importance of living an intense spiritual life.

We commenced the year with 72 Students, 39 of whom entered the College from last Conference, and 33 were second year Students. Early in the autumn session a first year Student—Edward Bell, failed to sustain his studies through Neurosis. After medical examination, and on his own pressing desire, he was allowed to withdraw from the College altogether. We therefore finished the year with 71 Students.

The College Extensions, previously sanctioned by the Conference, are proceeding satisfactorily; and we may state that with a view to make the College premises as complete as possible under the present scheme of alterations, Mr. Hartley decided during the year to add a New Dining Hall to the other additional Buildings. This last addition—the New Dining Hall, we hope to have ready for use on the next re-assembling of the College, or shortly after.

In connection with the proposed increase of Students from the Conference of 1906, the attention of the Committee has been turned to the probable increase in the cost of the College maintenance.

The full complement of Students in the new premises we estimate would require a grant of about £2,000, instead of £1,400. But we beg to ask that a Confidential Committee be appointed to consider the number of Students to be admitted to the College in 1906, also the question of the Tutorial staff, with the providing of the increased cost of maintenance and other kindred questions.

Proposals for affiliating the College with the Victoria University, Manchester, in connection with the Divinity Faculty recently instituted there; also for a necessary re-adjustment of our College Terms, have been considered, and we have forwarded the same for the approval of Conference.

As Mr. W. P. Hartley has generously offered to pay the Rev. W. L. Wardle's salary (£150) for the next year, we ask the Conference to re-appoint him as assistant Tutor.

The Rev. Wm. Johnson, Principal, speaking to the Report, said, that so far as the teaching was concerned they had had a very satisfactory year. The staff had earnestly sought to stimulate the Students, not only to work, but to think. They had set before them high ideals of the Christian Minister and his work, and their desire was that they should be a worthy example to those amongst whom they would be called to labour, and he trusted that they would be a great blessing to the Connexion.

#### A Glowing Tribute.

Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., regretted exceedingly the absence of Mr. W. P. Hartley. He said he was moved to say a word or two on the Report they had before them, because he had recently had the opportunity of going over the new buildings with Mr. Hartley, and because he then saw what the future of that Institute is going to be, and he felt that in many respects they would have the most complete Institution of its kind in the country. The scheme had cost Mr. Hartley not only expense but time, thought, and care, as he himself went through all the plans, specifications, and details of the work, and had spared no expense whatever in making it the best adapted building possible.

Mr. Beckworth felt that they owed both to Mr. Hartley and the Connexion that his name should be associated with the Institute. Just as the Congregationalists had their Mansfield College, so they should have their Hartley College; and he trusted that the Committee would take the opportunity at an early date to carry his suggestion into effect. He said they must see to it that they did their part as Churches in sending the right type of men to the Institute. He was pained to read the remarks of Professor Peake at the National Free Church Council Meetings in Manchester, when he said that the men who were sent up to the Theological Institutions were men who were not acquainted with their Bibles as their fathers were. They must not forget to train their young men to be preachers as well as students. It was worth the careful thought of the Committee to consider how there might be brought about a state of things whereby the Students should have instruction in preaching, as it was necessary that they should be taught how to preach.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) thought it would be a very good thing if arrangements could be made for the President to give to the Students a series of lectures on missions, and thus create a passion and enthusiasm for mission work.

The report was seconded and adopted.

The Conference adjourned at 5 o'clock.

#### A SNAP SHOT—HATS OFF!!

The Delegates and Visitors were photographed on the steps in front of the church at the close of the afternoon session.

(Continued on page 25.)

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Rev. JOSEPH JOHNSON, St. George's Hall,

Old Kent Road, London, S.E.



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## The Primitive Methodist Leader

INCORPORATING 'THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST'

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1905.

## THE PERMANENCE OF RELIGION.

THERE is no phenomenon in all the life of man more universal and more striking than religion. The frequent assertions that there are tribes without religion are not endorsed by the most competent anthropologists, though the forms it assumes may seem through their unfamiliarity to have no definitely religious character. To the savage, religion is often one of the main concerns of life, bound up with all his dearest interests and inseparable from all his activities. Its rites are fraught with energy of the most potent kind; the powers with whom it brings him into contact are mighty to work him weal or bane. They jealously guard the sacred ceremonies from all that would profane them; the eye of the uninitiated may not see the holy mysteries, nor must his ear ever listen to the secret lore. Hence the traveller may know much of the ordinary life of a tribe, while he remains completely ignorant that it possesses a religion at all. Even after he has won its confidence, disarmed its suspicion, and thawed its reserve, he may still be excluded from knowledge of its religion. Again and again prolonged intimacy has discovered what for years had evaded the closest scrutiny, and the 'irreligious' tribe has been found to possess a religion of a very elaborate kind.

Few things in the universe are more impressive than this, that everywhere religion is characteristic of man. To me it is the sure promise that religion must be a permanent element in human life. If it is said that with the repulsive and cruel heathenism of howling savages we can have nothing to do, since religion means such utterly different things in their case and ours, that is wholly to miss the point. If one were to say that hunger is not to be counted on as a permanent factor in the upward movement of the race, because the feasts of the savage are so different from our own, the fallacy of such an argument would impose on no one. It is the same instinct in them and in us, though what is satisfaction to the one would inspire nothing but loathing in the other. What is important is, not that this or that type of food is taken, coarse and disgusting here, refined and delicate there, but that in each case the same imperious craving makes itself felt. And as with the hunger of the body so it is with the hunger of the soul. In the breast of every man this longing is implanted, the sense of need, the aspiration for something higher to complete and crown his life. It stings the spirit out of contentment with the world, and bids it launch itself into the unknown. It assures man that he is made for the infinite, that time and space are not his measure, and can in no wise meet his profoundest needs. It prophesies to him of the unseen, and tells him that there he must seek the springs that will slake his inward thirst.

For nature in the higher realm is true to the law we find in the lower. Organism responds to environment, the existence of the physical instinct is the guarantee that the means for its gratification are not lacking. How otherwise could the organ develop? how could it, even if it came into existence ready-made, fail to perish through disuse? We may think then of man, even at his lowest point, as illustrating this law in his spiritual life. Just as in the deep ocean the cuttle fish throws out its groping tentacles on every side for food; since the senses of sight and hearing serve it less than the sense of touch; so we may think of the soul of man at the lowest, blindly feeling for its spiritual satisfaction, and making tentative experiments on every side. In some directions experiments would result in disappointment, and gradually the attempts to win nourishment on these lines would be discontinued as fruitless. But inasmuch as the spiritual environment was always there to respond to the activities of the soul, experiments in other directions would be rewarded with success. Some glow would thrill through the spirit; the light that lighteneth every man would be doing His beneficent work. Doing it, it may seem to us, at an almost inconceivably low level, stooping with matchless condescension to the depths. But the first step has been taken, which is the promise of all that is to follow; religion is born into the world. Through what blind straggings, what gross and revolting rites, what crude mythologies, it moved slowly upward, from crudity to refinement, from bloodthirsty cruelty to tenderness and humanity, it lies beyond my purpose to describe. The point I wish to emphasise is, that the Religious instinct was the universal agent in this great development, and that the instinct was met with stimulus and satisfaction by the living God, who planted it in man's breast. I do not refer only to that intense activity of God which we associate with the religions of revelation, where a special sensitiveness was developed on the one side and a special response was accorded to it on the other, culminating in the manifestation of the Son of God. Here God strikes more strongly into the current. But we must also confess that the first tiniest tricklings of the stream were not without His loving and watchful care. The random and feeble stretching of hands in dumb and barely conscious appeal did not pass unnoticed; nor was it noticed only to be despised. Some answer came to those prayers of weakness and ignorance, an answer that fostered the tiny spark of devotion.

It may seem to not a few that I am dealing with remote questions, with little bearing on the conditions that set us our practical problem. Even were that the case I should still feel that in the first of this series of articles I was justified in laying foundations even if they were sunk some distance below the surface. But what I have said seems to me to bear directly on one of the gravest issues that we are called to face. The impression is being industriously diffused that the day for religion is nearly done, and it will soon be numbered with obsolete antiquities. Our own young people are exposed to this influence; and what with skilful sapping and mining, and what with confident direct assault, faith is often in danger of collapse. Naturally the Christian case does not lend itself to brief demonstration, and the impatient temper can be catered for more easily by the telling proofs from the Rationalistic side, that religion is a superannuated absurdity, than by the weaving of threads of argument into a reasoned justification for belief in Christianity. Yet there are some arguments that admit of being stated with concision and brevity that are also singularly impressive in their character. And one of these is the proof from the universality of religion. What is universal in human experience may be justly inferred to be permanent. Moreover, on an evolutionary theory it seems difficult to escape the inference that the very existence of the Religious instinct, and still more its invariable manifestation in all the life of man, proves the existence of a spiritual universe. Otherwise we should have the spectacle of a faculty brought into existence, gradually developing, persisting amid all change, and yet doing all this with no environment to which it could correspond. If that is inconceivable, then the existence and diffusion of religion prove conclusively that there is a spiritual universe, though the nature of that universe has to be more precisely determined in other ways.

I have deliberately left aside the question, What is Religion? since I hope to deal with that in a subsequent paper. At the close of this first article I may be permitted to say a word or two as to plans for the future. In a very crowded and distracting life, it would not be possible for me to do all that I would. A systematic scheme would have its advantages, but it might not be easy to carry it through. Hence I leave myself unfettered in choice of topics, and if the order seems to be desultory, that, too, is not without its recommendations. I hope to speak mainly on Religious and Theological questions, understanding these terms in no restricted sense. But sometimes I may diverge into other paths. If possible, I hope to accept the Editor's request to write every week. But if that prove impracticable, let me say once for all, that this will simply be due to my limitations of strength and time. I often say to myself when I am tempted to chafe at my slowness and weakness, 'You can't do more than you can,' and this bald truism has many times been helpful to me. If any of

my readers would care to send suggestions as to subjects they would like me to discuss I will carefully consider them. If I do not accept a suggestion it will not necessarily be because I think it unsuitable. I often envy those who can discuss any and every topic as it presents itself. That has never been one of my gifts; and if I pass a subject by it will not improbably be because I feel I have nothing of moment to say on it.

ARTHUR S. PEAKE.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS  
Continued.

SATURDAY Morning, June 17th.

THE Conference was resumed at 9 o'clock, the President (Rev. G. E. Butt) presiding. There was only a small attendance when the hymn, 'My Faith looks up to Thee,' was announced. Prayer was offered by Mr. Henry Adams and Rev. T. Whitehead (member of the Deed Poll), after which 'Spirit of Faith, come down,' was sung, amidst the arrival of many of the Delegates.

The Conference Secretary (the Rev. W. A. French) read the Minutes of the previous day's proceedings.

## APPLICATION FOR THE SERVICES OF THE EVANGELISTS.

The General Missionary Secretary (Rev. James Pickett) said that in consequence of the vote of Conference by which the Revs. James Flanagan and Joseph Odell had been set apart for special work he wanted to give the fullest opportunity to all parts of the Connexion to have an equal chance of securing their services. The work of the evangelists is relegated to a Committee, of which Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., is the Secretary; but as Mr. Beckworth was a very busy gentleman, it had been decided that he should not be put to the trouble of receiving and dealing with the applications from the circuits, but that all requests should be sent on to him (the General Missionary Secretary), and he would place them before the Committee in due course for consideration and selection. He wished to point out that the winter's work of the evangelists would be arranged within the next three weeks, so that he would urge all circuits who deserved the services of the Missioners to send in their application to himself as early as possible.

## OFFICERS OF THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

The General Committee Secretary moved the following officers for the College:—

Principal, W. Johnson; Vice-Principal, W. J. Davies; Tutors, Prof. A. S. Peake, B.D., A. L. Humphries, M.A., W. L. Wardle, B.D.; Treasurer, T. Beeley, J.P.; Secretary, George Armitage. This resolution was seconded and carried.

## THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE COMMITTEE.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the College Committee be as follows:—

The President of Conference, G. E. Butt, the ex-President, R. Harrison, the Secretary of Conference, W. A. French; Trustees: J. Travis, J. Welford, J. T. Barkby, F. N. Shimmmin, H. J. Pickett, G. Bennett, H. Pratt, W. Beckworth, J.P., S. Buckley, J.P., T. Lawrence, T. Beeley, J.P., H. Beales, J. Tomlinson, J. Jones, W. P. Hartley, J.P., J. Longden, H. Adams, R. P. Beckworth, H. R. Mansfield, M.P., L. L. Morse, J.P., J. W. Glendinning, B. Haswell, F. C. Linfield. Elected in 1903: F. W. Brett, W. Welford, J. Whittle, R. Bryant, W. McNeil, J.P., J. Jackson, J. Pickett, J. Hallam, G. Parkin, B.D., W. Bowe, G. Armitage, W. Windsor, W. J. Davies, S. L. George, H. J. Taylor, J. Ritson, J. Mayles, J. P. Langham, Joseph Hall, J. Jopling, W. Huffington, T. Parr, M.A., J. Berry, G. G. Martindale, G. A. Genney, P. Gibbon, J. Swinden, J. Burton, J. G. Bowran, E. Phillipson, G. Edwards, J. Gibbon, A. H. Kynaston, C. Longstaff, M. P. Davison, T. Fletcher, G. W. King. Elected in 1904: A. Morton, G. L. Welford, J. Yearsley, A. S. Peake, B.D., A. L. Humphries, M.A., J. Brown, W. J. Kirkland, H. E. Judson, J.F., T. Jones, W. Stephenson, W. C. T. Parker, W. Mainprize, O. Eatough, C. Tinn, S. R. Woodall, G. Hunt, G. T. Lovat, T. B. Caukwell, R. W. B. Whiteway, A. Beavan, J. Wilkinson, G. H. Southall, R. Curson, W. D. Judson, W. Spedding, W. J. Bellis, B. Haddon, N. Thorpe, S. Field, John Hall, J. Bradbury, G. H. Glover, T. H. Hunt, J. D. Thompson, B. Fell. Elected in 1905: T. Mitchell, P. Peacock, J. Watson, D.D., W. E. Parker, J. Dudley, W. Barker, E. Mather, T. Wilshaw, W. Vaughan, T. Howdill, W. Whitham, T. Buckley, J. Brearley, E. Dalton, E. R. Davies, P. Leadley, W. Johnson, T. Scrimshaw, J. H. Taylor, M.A., J. T. Gooderidge, A. Ward, W. Eccles, J. Sutcliffe, J. D. Jackson, Dr. G. Booth, J.P., G. P. Clarke, A. J. Campbell, T. L. Gerrard, C. Leese, A. E. Calvert, G. E. Lloyd, J. S. Buckley, W. L. Wardle, B.D., J. S. White, R. Durham, W. Wheeler.

This was seconded and carried.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS re COLLEGE.

The General Committee Secretary moved that we receive the report of the Sub-Committee as printed, on the relation of the College to the B.D. Course of the Victoria University, and hereby gives the College authority to apply for the recognition of our College by the said University.

The resolution was seconded.

## PRINCIPAL JOHNSON AND THE COLLEGE.

The Rev. Principal Johnson, speaking to this resolution, said he had received a letter from the Vice-Chancellor of the University, in which he pointed out that the idea of the Faculty, which had already begun work most successfully, was to give the highest class of Theological teaching absolutely free from tests or sectarian restriction, and that while associating the various denominational Colleges near Manchester, which prepare students for the Christian ministry, with them in their work, they should always provide that a very substantial portion of the teaching should be given by the Professors of the University within its walls. They wished to secure the harmonious co-operation of various religious bodies, and so promote good feeling and mutual respect. They were particularly fortunate in having as Dean of the Faculty, Professor Peake, who holds the chair of Biblical Exegesis. The Vice-Chancellor had heard from Oxford how highly Professor Peake was thought of by Theological scholars in that University.

The resolution was put and carried.

## THE COLLEGE TERMS.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the college year shall be divided into three terms on or about (1) August 18th to December 9th., (2) January 8th to Easter, with 1½ weeks vacation, (3) Easter to end of May.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

The Rev. George Armstrong hoped they had not altered the term to about 20 weeks on the ground of hard work, as some of them had to work hard for 52 weeks.

The General Committee Secretary moved that in order to meet the case of students who, owing to distance from their homes or lack of means to travel, were unable to avail themselves of the Easter vacation, the College Committee should endeavour to assist them to some temporary employment, or in some other way meet the case.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the following resolution from the College Committee be recorded:—'That the Conference be informed that provided the enlarged College has its full complement of 100 students appointed to it at the Conference of 1906, we estimate the grant then required to be about £1,900 to £2,000.

Seconded and carried.

## Future Arrangements.

The General Committee Secretary moved that a special Committee be appointed to consider:—

1. How the grant shall be provided.
2. The number of students to be admitted in 1906.
3. The additions which may be necessary in the Tutorial staff.
5. Other kindred questions arising from the enlargement.

The Committee to be composed of 20 persons, as suggested by the College Committee.

This was seconded.

Mr. Crawford, of the Sunderland and Newcastle District, thought that something should be done to try and make the Education of their young men free; and he said that every District should be represented on the special Committee, as the Connexion would be asked to find the money required.

A Delegate moved an amendment, that the Committee be composed of 25 persons (one from each District) with the Connexional Offices and Ex-Officio Members.

This was seconded.

Rev. J. Welford (General Committee Secretary) pointed out that if that were done, gentlemen who were experts on the matter before them, and who had given years to that work, would be excluded. He hoped they would appoint the Committee nominated by the College Committee.

Rev. George Trusler said they had no objection to a small Committee of experts sitting for College purposes, but if they were going into the whole question of finance they felt that they must have a representative Committee.

Rev. John Hallam pointed out that the Committee could not go into the question of levy without bringing it before the Conference, and in view of that fact he thought they might leave the matter with the Committee.

Rev. W. Welford said they ought to have confidence in the Committee, which had worked so satisfactorily for so many years and had inspired such princely generosity.

The vote was then taken, and the resolution carried by a very large majority.

## The Special Committee.

The General Committee Secretary then moved that the Special Committee be constituted as follows:—

T. Beeley J.P., J. Travis, W. P. Hartley J.P., T. Mitchell, W. McNeil J.P., J. Welford, G. Bennett, R. Hind, J. Longden, A. S. Peake M.A., B.D., A. L. Humphries M.A., W. Johnson, George Armitage, J. T. Barkby, H. J. Pickett, W. Beckworth J.P., J. W. Glendinning, S. Hilton, J. Bell, E. C. Rawlings.

To meet at the College, Manchester, in October, 1905, Geo. Armitage to be the Convener.

## STUDENTS' ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT.

The General Committee Secretary (Rev. J. Welford) moved the following series of resolutions relating to the election of students to the College:—

1. That we record that fourteen Candidates have passed for the Reserve list, and forty-six for the College List.

2. That as all Candidates who have passed for the Reserve List, with the exception of R. H. Quick, who is married, have expressed their wish to enter College, those of them who may not be required for Stations be allowed to have the preference in entering College according to the number of their marks.

3. That W. H. Campbell, J. W. Richardson, W. Dixon, J. Grant, and A. Watson, on the Reserve List, have written to the Secretary strongly urging them to be allowed to enter College, and we recommend their request be granted.

4. That the Candidates enter College according to the number of marks secured up to the limit of College accommodation.

5. That as R. H. Quick has gained a place on the Reserve List, he be appointed to a Station if there be any vacancy after all the students have been stationed.

6. That although H. Coulbeck has only gained a place on the College List with 690 marks, yet in view of his great success as a winner of souls we recommend that he be appointed to a Station should there be any opening.

7. That as P. M. Richardson has only gained a place on the College List with 689 marks we do not grant his request to go direct into the ministry.

8. That the Candidates on the College List who are not required for College shall take their places on the list for next year according to the number of marks received, but they shall be allowed, if they so wish, to take the written examination next year without filling up any testimonial form or supplying a medical certificate.

9. That we recommend that should any of the Reserve List men be required to go direct into the Ministry the following be appointed:—

Enoch J. Hancox,	25 years of age, with	740 marks.
George Freeman	23 " " "	729 "
William T. Leach	22 " " "	731 "

## GRIMSBY SECOND AND MR. H. COULBECK.

The Rev. Thomas Jackson said he hoped that the only door into the ministry would not be through the College, though he had great respect for the College. He hoped that though a young man did happen to be married, yet if he felt that his vocation in life was to preach the gospel, the door into the ministry would not be closed against him. He said that if such a thing as that came to pass then such men as himself (Mr. Jackson) would not be able to enter the ministry. Whilst consideration should be given to men who had been to College, yet he trusted that the day would never come when men who had not been to College should be necessarily kept out of their ministry.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) said that there was no attempt to close the door into the ministry. The door was open at present, and men who had not been to College were now entering the ministry.

The Rev. T. Jackson inquired if Mr. Coulbeck would be able to take a circuit from the present Conference.

The Rev. John Welford again remarked that he would be very sorry to think that the door into their ministry would ever be closed against such a man as Mr. Coulbeck, who was a great evangelist and had been successful in winning many souls to Christ.

The resolution of the General Committee Secretary was then carried, and Mr. Coulbeck was appointed to Grimsby Second.

The Rev. W. J. Ward inquired whether a young man would have the chance, in case that he took a circuit at the present Conference, of going to College next year if he so desired?

The Rev. W. A. Eyre said that that principle was adopted by the Wesleyans, and he thought that that course was most advantageous.

The Rev. John Welford remarked that their own Conference was already doing the same thing.

The report was then adopted.

## REPORT OF THE LAMB SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the General Committee Secretary (Rev. John Welford) the following were elected as Lamb Memorial students:—

Joseph W. Pattinson, Stanhope, 22 years of age, marks 726.

Herbert J. Sadd, Frome, 22 years of age, marks 695.

William Grover, Dover, 24 years of age, marks 672.

It was decided that should any of the above fail, then the scholarship should be awarded to either W. R. Richardson, S. H. Hall, or E. F. Martin.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the Report of the Lamb Scholarship Fund and Balance Sheet be received and adopted. This was seconded and carried.

## LAMB SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford the following were elected as Committee:—

Alderman McNeill, W. Beckworth, J.P., T. Lawrence, J. Jones, and T. Mitchell. The Rev. John Welford, Secretary.

## REPORT OF THE LOCAL PREACHERS' TRAINING COMMITTEE.

We beg respectfully to present to you the first Annual Report of the Central Committee for the Training and Equipment of Local Preachers. The Committee has held two meetings during the year, and has put in operation the legislation which was adopted by the last Conference. We are glad to be able to state that all the Districts have appointed their Local Preachers' Training Committees, with secretaries and treasurers. Sub-tutors have also been appointed in the Districts to direct the studies of students on the subjects set forth monthly in the 'Christian Messenger,' and to recommend as a result of a year's course of such study those who are eligible to take a higher examination, to be subsequently arranged by the Central Committee. Upwards of 120 students have joined the Correspondence classes, and the work is being gradually pushed forward with increasing interest. As the movement is yet in its initial stages, we are not able to report large results, but are gratified by the general response which has been given to the work of the organisation. In many Districts Local Preachers' Associations have been formed, District and Station Libraries and Reading Circles are in operation, and arrangements are being made for the delivery of suitable lectures in given centres. Visits have been paid by the general secretaries to several Districts in advocacy of the scheme and with good results.

We have requested that a yearly subscription of not less than 5s. from the Circuits should be forwarded to the General Treasurer for working expenses, but that the first payment be retained by the Districts for their initial working expenses, except such portion of it as may not be absolutely required.

## Rev. Henry Yooll.

The Rev. Henry Yooll said that he was sure there was not a member of the Conference but who was determined to carry out the spirit of the above report. They were launching a new barque, but it was a barque which had not been built in any eclipse. Its purpose was to meet a felt want. He was not disparaging the labours of the men of the past, but their purpose was to try and meet the needs of the younger men as local preachers and to equip them for the new times. The legislation had already been put into operation, and with encouraging results. Upwards of 120 students had joined the Correspondence Classes, and they were endeavouring to create District Associations and resuscitate those Libraries which they very largely owed to Mr. Hartley's generosity. The local preacher evidently intended to make himself a great factor in their church life, and he felt that it would be a great calamity if the function of the local preacher became a thing of the past. The creation of pastorates might sometimes be necessary, but he thought that it would be against the genius of their church to go very far along that line. They were a village church, and so far as he could understand the trend of the times he thought that the day was far distant when the local preacher would be effete. He said that the local preacher himself should give attention to that matter, for the purpose of the scheme was to help the local preacher who had certain disadvantages, and to give him a chance. He was glad to know that in many instances the bringing of the opportunity was awakening the impulse within their local preachers. If taken advantage of, their scheme would put them into line with other churches. Even the Church of England was training its laymen, and if they did it, surely Primitive Methodists should not be behind them. He said that the local preacher was a man amongst men, and he (Mr. Yooll) sometimes envied him along the line of his new opportunities. He had pleasure

in moving the adoption of the report. This was seconded and carried.

## LOCAL PREACHERS' TRAINING COMMITTEE.

The Rev. Henry Yooll, moved that the following be the Committee:—

T. L. Gerrard, J. Wilson, M.P., W. Foat, G. Carter, W. Rowland, J. J. Webb, A. L. Humphries, M.A., R. Bryant, M. P. Davison, W. Lee, B.A., F. Pickett, J. Welford, with H. Yooll and H. Jeffs secretaries, and M. T. Wigham treasurer.

The meetings of this Committee for 1905-6 shall be held in October and April (on dates to be arranged) in Leicester and London (Aldersgate Street) respectively.

This was seconded and adopted.

In relation to the working expenses of the Committee Mr. W. Neal (Sheffield) said that he would like to know if the first five shillings were to be sent to the Central Committee or retained to meet the expenses within the respective districts.

The President (Rev. G. E. Butt) replied that the first five shillings were to be sent to the Central Committee.

Mr. Neal then said that he wished to have a word on the general question. He wished to express his gratitude to the Conference for the adoption of the legislation, and he wanted to appeal to the circuits and to elicit the interest of the ministerial brethren in relation to that subject. He was not insinuating that the ministers were lacking in interest, but he was wishful for the ministers to bring the question before their quarterly meetings. He desired that they might accomplish larger results, and much depended especially on the attitude of the superintendent ministers.

The Conference adjourned at 11 a.m. for

## THE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The Memorial Service commenced at eleven o'clock with the singing of a hymn and offering a prayer by the ex-President (Rev. R. Harrison).

The Rev. J. Welford (General Secretary) moved a resolution of profound regret at the death of so large a number of ministers, and that a letter of sympathy be sent to the relatives.

The names of the ministers have previously been given in these columns.

Rev. R. Harrison seconded the motion.

Rev. A. Beavan (Manchester) gave the address. He said the subject which had to occupy their attention was one which would unite all hearts, for in the presence of death all life's ambitions died. During the Connexional Year, upwards of twenty of their brethren had been called away; and it was certainly fitting and beautiful, and should be instructive and admonitory to them, to recall to their minds the loyalty and devotion to Christ, and the passion and sacrifice, the patience and heroism with which those men served their generation, according to the will of God. Of those brethren whose names were to be mentioned fourteen or fifteen were on the supernumerary list, and the remaining number were still on the active list when the call of the Master came to them. Proceeding, and taking the names in alphabetical order, Rev. A. Beavan gave brief memoirs of the dead ministers.

The death of the Rev. Levi Norris (Gloucester) had been reported since the Conference, his death only taking place last Saturday.

Delegates to the Conference bore testimony with regard to the deceased minister.

Saturday Afternoon, June 17th.

The President (Rev. G. E. Butt) announced the hymn, 'O for a thousand tongues to sing,' after the singing of which Mr. Sutherland and the Rev. W. Welford led the assembly in prayer. The hymn—'O Jesus, I have promised' was then sung.

## THANKS TO REV. A. BEAVAN.

The Rev. J. Welford moved that the Conference expressed its high appreciation of the address delivered by Mr. Beavan at the Memorial Service. He said that the address was a fine tribute to the character and service of the deceased brethren.

In seconding the resolution the Rev. James Pickett said that he regretted that there was not a larger number of the delegates and visitors present to hear the address. He considered that it was a real memorial address and not an oration, well conceived and admirably expressed.

The President also remarked that he was sorry that all the brethren were not present to hear the address.

The resolution was adopted.

In reply the Rev. A. Beavan said that he was thankful for that recognition of his services. When asked to prepare the address he said he could not find a good reason for saying 'No,' yet he was glad for what he had been able to do.

## MINISTERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE YEAR.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the Conference places on record its profound sense of the loss the connexion has sustained in the death of so large a number of its ministers, some like W. Haddow and R. E. Wheeler at a comparatively early age, but who had already won distinction, and gave promise of larger usefulness; others like W. Freear and W. Wilkinson, who had spent a long day in the Master's service and were still unwearied when death came; men like J. Ferguson, D.D., whose fame was in all our churches, and who had honourably filled the highest positions; and others who lived and laboured in comparative obscurity, yet who did noble work for Christ and the Church; men of the plodding type like W. Thoseby and H. G. Button, who built up churches and made them strong and aggressive, and men of high scholarly attainments like D. Neilson B.D., who was gifted with a passion to learn, and who made his learning subsidiary to the great work of preaching the gospel. These and all whose names are here recorded were all brethren beloved. All died in faith, and have passed into the light and joy of the eternal Presence.

A letter of sympathy on behalf of the Conference was directed to be sent to the relatives of each deceased minister.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) the following report was adopted:—

We have sanctioned the sale of various Connexional properties. In most cases these are being superseded by something better, but in a few instances chapels have been sold as the result of a decaying population and failure to keep the cause alive, and our sanction has been reluctantly given.

A number of questions were remitted to us by last Conference, which we have dealt with to the best of our ability.



Legislation, and sundry proposals thereon, will in due course be submitted for your consideration and approval.

We have been pleased to receive during the year the address of the first general Conference of the Methodist Church of Australasia, and we are sure that Conference will extend a most hearty welcome to the representatives appointed to visit us.

Following the precedent of last year, the various Methodist churches have appointed representatives to visit the Conference at Scarborough, and we have appointed our representatives to their Conferences.

The report of the Joint Committee of the three churches on Methodist Union is just to hand. As the Committee did not meet to formulate its proposals until the end of March, it was impossible to prepare and issue the report in time for the question to be submitted to our circuit courts and churches, according to the resolution of last Conference. We have, however, arranged through the Agenda Committee that the matter shall have the fullest consideration at the Conference.

In common with all the Free Churches, we were startled with the verdict of the House of Lords on the Scotch Church dispute, and your Committee has expressed, on behalf of the Connexion, sympathy with the United Free Church of Scotland, and cherishes the hope that Parliament will speedily remedy the injustice created.

We have endeavoured to give effect to the legislation adopted by last Conference for the Training and Equipment of Local Preachers, and a vigorous Central Council has been appointed that is doing effective work; and we are glad to be assured that the various districts are falling into line and that increased interest is being awakened in this important department of our Church life.

We have watched with deepening interest and gratitude to God the growth of the Revival in Wales, and rejoice that our churches there, and in other parts of the kingdom, have largely shared in the blessing.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the following be the Committee:—

The President of the Conference, G. E. Butt; the Secretary of the Conference, W. A. French, E. Dalton, H. Yooll, T. Mitchell, R. Bryant, R. Harrison, J. Pickett, J. Hallam, D. Sheen, S. S. Henshaw, G. Parkin, B. D., J. Watson, D. D., T. Newell, W. Cutts, R. Fenwick, T. Whitehead, J. Travis, J. Stephenson, J. Wenn, W. Jones, J. Jackson, J. Smith, J. Odell, H. B. Kendall, B. A., T. H. Hunt, J. D. Thompson, R. Harrison, G. Seaman, R. Tanfield, R. Hind, W. R. Widdowson, W. P. Hartley, J. P., T. Lawrence, W. McNeill, J. P., T. Beeley, J. P., J. Harrison, Dr. Booth, W. Beckworth, J. P., J. Coward, J. P., R. Foster, F. C. Linfield, J. Hewitson, E. C. Rawlings, A. T. Guttery, J. Davies, W. J. Kirkland, G. P. Clarke, D. Lingard, G. C. Hockenbush, A. G. Jones, M. Knowlson, C. Tinn, G. W. Turner, J. H. Hemshall, E. Jennings, H. Clarke, H. R. Mansfield, M. P., M. Bourne, J. Shaw, P. Peacock, G. Bennett, E. Robson, W. Boyes, J. Hall, E. Campbell, T. J. Watson, T. Sellors, J. Bell, T. E. Davidson, W. Robson, A. T. Wardle, F. C. France, J. C. Mantripp, R. Tweed, G. Grimson, H. G. Stone, Jos. Hall, S. R. Woodall, E. Shepherd, G. H. Hunt, W. E. Parker, W. Windsor, J. W. Fish, W. C. Tonks, J. T. Stead, E. Smith, G. Page, L. L. Morse, J. P., J. Burditt, W. Wheeler, J. P. Mossop, T. Howdill, A. Chipindale, M. M. Waterhouse, T. Humphris, S. Mincher, W. Ward, F. E. Sampson, C. R. Stevens, C. H. Hacker, H. J. Pickett, F. Shergold, J. Lindley, G. Carter, T. Proud, T. Singlehurst, G. Trusler, T. Saunders, W. Wardle, A. Lee, J. P., J. H. Jolly, A. Jackson, W. B. Cheshire, W. Clulow, T. Parr, M. A., J. J. Appleby, A. Shaw, W. Arundel, P. O. Hirst, C. C. Goodall, G. Green, J. P., T. Robinson, J. P., W. Spedding, J. Gillender, J. Mayles, J. Caton, J. Jones, J. P., W. Vaughan, P. Nume, F. Jeffs, J. Burton, R. Heppenstall, H. Adams, H. Tyas, W. Mainprize, J. Hall, J. Keightley, T. R. Watkinson, C. K. Watkinson, C. W. Barker, W. Younger, J. Taylor, J. W. Cotton, C. H. Leach, M. Harrison, J. P., H. J. Mein, W. Hayton, D. McKinley, J. Hopkins, L. Ferguson, M. Thompson, J. Jenkinson, F. E. Heap, E. W. Pedley, G. W. King, J. Brearley, D. Driver, R. Fletcher, G. H. Southall, W. L. Taylor, S. Bryant, T. M. Cottle, G. Boshier, G. Dowle, J. W. Whittaker, W. M. Batterbee, C. Shreeve, W. Savage, W. Theobald, E. Harvey, P. T. Yarker, A. J. Bull, T. Phelps, W. Sharpe, J. White, J. P., A. A. Birchenough, W. H. Mason, L. J. Harvey, J. Higgins, T. W. Green, J. H. Clewer, A. Warcup, J. H. Best, J. S. Buckley, T. K. Harvey, J. C. Dinham, J. H. Watters, W. Sawyer, J. Johnson (2), T. Jackson, H. Roe, J. Gledhill, J. Thomas, W. Tyler, F. H. Lodge, A. J. Smith, W. R. Bootland, W. E. Parker, R. R. Connell, R. S. Blair, G. Stanyer, G. Shapcott, G. C. Normandale, D. T. Maylott, G. Rudram, T. J. Gladwin, E. Alford, G. C. Crickmay, W. Welford, F. Pickett, W. Mincher, W. J. Price, J. F. Porter, T. Meakin, J. Dobson, H. Clarke, G. B. Gleghorn, J. W. Ellings, R. Andrews, J. W. Roberts, J. Dinnick, S. L. George, C. Spooner, G. Atkins, E. Lednor, R. H. Durant, F. H. Hurd, W. East, Dr. Jackson, W. J. Hayson, G. Wood, W. F. Everatt, G. Haygreen, J. W. Coad, R. Stather, J. A. Gledhill, J. Watkin, R. Smith, T. Price, A. Eade, M. Simmonds, E. Tiplady, R. Evans, J. Mills, W. Lee, B. A., G. Neame, A. Bastin, W. White, T. Waite, G. H. Sellors, C. Pinhorn, T. Peatfield, J. Walker, A. Cope, T. Gray, S. A. Butt, W. T. C. Hallam, E. Lowther, J. P., J. Learmonth, M. T. Wigham, E. Cross, H. Brown, W. Tarver, E. A. Howe, E. J. T. Bagnall, J. H. Gould, J. P., J. Amos, G. Bromley, A. Salter, I. Dorricott, H. Carden, T. C. Showell, W. Watson, J. Walker, H. J. C. Brudenell, F. Harrison, R. Phillips, S. Beesley, W. Forsey, G. Andrews, T. G. Dyke, J. Loveday, J. Bailey, J. Squires, J. Sheale, R. Taylor, W. C. T. Parker, J. Skinner, J. E. Barley, J. Leach. J. Welford, Secretary; John D. Thompson, Vice-Secretary. To meet on July 7th, 1905, and every alternate Friday, at the Book Depot, Aldersgate-street, London, at 10 a.m. Five members to form a quorum.

#### REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

We are pleased through the mercy and blessing of God to report the continued prosperity of our work. The advance made in some departments is not so large as last year, but it is nevertheless substantial and encouraging.

The number of schools in the Home Districts now totals 4,127, an increase of 32; teachers, 60,073, increase 438; teacher members, 54,488, increase 564. Teachers who are not church members are growing fewer every year, but there are still 5,585 who stand outside our spiritual fellowship. It is desirable, in their own interests, and in the interest of their scholars, that they should be brought into the communion of the church; and we trust that wise and prudent efforts

will be made by circuit and school authorities to induce them to take this important step.

Our scholars have gone up to 466,154, increase 4,157; of whom 1,554 are males and 2,603 females. This increase follows large increases in the two previous years, and for the three years the ranks of our scholars have been increased to the extent of 21,100. The average attendances are nearly keeping pace with the increase of scholars, there being 3,352 morning and 3,998 afternoon attendances more than last year.

This is only the second year we have received returns of the sectional strength of our schools. Though not yet quite correct, we have practical accuracy, and are able to measure with confidence the numbers in the several departments. Thus Infants (scholars under 7 years of age) are returned at 117,298; Intermediates (above 7 and under 14) 228,034; Seniors (over 14), 117,675. Returns have been made of Seniors for many years. They show an increase of 2,339. The means for providing spiritual nourishment and guidance for the little ones is receiving attention. An addition of 58 Junior Society classes has been made during the year. Still there is room for great improvement, as there are only 1,517 of these classes in the whole of our church, and it must be remembered that they include catechumen classes and Junior Societies of Christian Endeavour.

Juvenile membership might be considerably augmented if a little more thought and care were given to this important and urgent matter. We are glad, however, to report progress in this branch of our work also. Scholar members under 14 years of age number 39,790, an increase of 2,271; those above 14 years of age 36,637, increase, 1,739. Put the two sections together, and it will be seen that we have 76,427 members among our scholars.

It is a source of satisfaction to us that 2,862 of our schools take the International Lessons, an increase of 59.

We regret deeply that the number of Libraries is gradually diminishing year by year. There are now only 794, a decrease of 25.

The order from the schools for the Annual Report has reached 35,312 copies, an increase of 732.

It is especially gratifying to find the demand for the Scholars' Letter becoming more and more general; it is an attractive little booklet and has a distinct mission to the scholars. It is published in connection with Young People's Days in October each year. The sale has rapidly gone up. The schools already require for next October 162,928 copies, an increase of 31,996.

We are glad to report that the Triennial S. S. Conference, held at Leicester last October, was a great success.

We held the Teachers and Scholars' Examinations in November, and though the candidates were slightly fewer than the previous year, much good work was done and some of the papers attained a high degree of excellence.

#### Rev. S. S. HENSHAW'S ADDRESS.

Speaking to the above Report the Rev. S. S. Henshaw (General Sunday School Secretary) said that it had been a successful year practically along the whole line. That was due to the magnificent services of the teachers. He was sure that there was no class of men who had shown more ability or more aptitude than the Sunday School Teachers. They had heard the Divine voice calling them to that work and they had received a baptism of the Holy Ghost equipping them for it. It was the highest and most honourable work to which any man could give himself. He knew their teachers were not perfect, but neither were their local preachers or their ministers. But if their teachers were not perfect, they were certainly improving; and if they could have better conditions they would give better results. Everywhere he saw evidences of the fruitfulness of Sunday School work. He said that there had been an increase of 32 schools, 438 teachers, and of 4,157 scholars. Considering the revival wave which had been going over the country, he was a little disappointed that the increase was not larger. He was sure that the efficiency of the Union was improving.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the report be received and adopted.

#### Some Good Suggestions.

In seconding the resolution the Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) said that he shared the sentiment expressed by Prof. Peake, that they took too little care of the children. He would like it to go as an instruction to the Sunday School Committee to inquire whether they could not do more for the Sunday School teacher than they were now doing. It was most important, he said, that they should look after the village Sunday schools. The responsibility on the Conference, and on the whole church, in regard to that matter was very great. The Sunday School Committee should at once take into their consideration, whether it could give more help to their teachers. He spoke very strongly on the desirability of forming branches of the 'Boys Life Saving Brigade' in connection with their schools.

Mr. J. J. Appleby referred to the decrease in the number of libraries mentioned in the report. He thought that was a serious matter, though he knew that that could be partly explained by the number of Free Libraries in their towns. Yet he claimed that a library of useful books was calculated to do great good. He quite agreed with what the Vice-President (Mr. Rawlings) has said, and in his opinion they should try to maintain their existing Libraries.

A delegate said that the Sunday School teachers worked hard, and he would like to know what increase or decrease there was within their separate Districts. A great deal had been said about the rural districts, but he thought that it was in the populous districts where they had the decreases. He would like to know the cause of such decrease, and what was the remedy for it. He suggested that one remedy was to have separate rooms for young people, as different ages would do a lot of good. With all the increases that were reported, yet he did not think they saved five children outside their own children and those of their congregations, and he submitted that the matter wanted to be carefully handled.

#### Rev. J. Dodd Jackson.

The Rev. J. Dodd Jackson wondered if they were doing sufficient in their schools in the way of denominationalism, for whilst there was a denominationalism that was evil, there was also a denominationalism that was quite another thing. If all denominationalism was bad, then he claimed that there was no reason for their existence as a church, and they should seek to make the children Primitive Methodists as well as Christians.

He asked if the children were being taught the history of their church? They should remember that if they as Primitive Methodists did not look after the children, other churches were looking after them. That was being done by the Church of England and by the Roman Catholic Church, and he did not know why they as Primitive Methodists should be content to allow their children to pass out of their schools without telling them the history of their church and why they were Primitive Methodists. He thought that it would do good to have a small church primer used in their schools. They would have not only to attach the children to Jesus Christ, but also to that Church which was so dear to them, and which should be so dear to their children.

Councillor Wood said that he was not sure as to the power and efficiency of their Sunday school teachers. There was need for more teachers. He thought that they would have to alter the system which had prevailed for a long time in their schools, and he did not think that the class system was the best.

Mr. A. E. Howe asked where the leakage really was in their schools. He did not think it was in the infant department, but among the boys and girls of 12 years of age and upwards. What many of their scholars needed was a teacher who would lay his hand upon them when they were about that age. Then he thought they ought to find something for their boys to do between Sundays, and they also needed better accommodation in their schools. If they did not look after this then the day was not far distant when they would not have the children to look after.

Mr. Grainger thought that one cause of their decreases was obsolete and ancient methods. They needed to get out of the ruts, and he hoped that the suggestion of the Vice-President as to boys' brigades would take some practical shape.

The report was then adopted.

#### BOYS' BRIGADES.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) moved the following resolution:—

'That it be an instruction to the General Committee of the Sunday School Union to take into consideration the following points: (1) The Reform of Sunday School Work and Methods, including denominational teaching, and to consult the Theological tutors at our College and the Book Committee, and to make practical suggestions thereon. (2) To examine into the Boys' Life-Saving Brigade movement as organised by the Sunday School Committee, Ludgate Hill, and if approved, to promote the same in our Sunday Schools, and to report fully to the next Conference.'

Replying to the Rev. W. A. Eyre, the Vice-President said that Boy's Brigades and Boys' Life-Saving Brigades were two different things.

A Welsh Delegate urged the importance of teaching the children their distinctive Church principles if they wished to retain them, and he gave an illustration from their own district.

The Rev. Henry Yooll (Editor) said that it was the intention of the Book Committee to publish certain books or booklets bearing on the matter, and that they were also arranging to issue a short popular history of their Church. He thought that a wider circulation of the 'Teacher's Journal,' which was taken by only one-fourth of the teachers, would do much good. It was not a good sign that only two-thirds of the Schools took the International Lessons, and he reminded them that the issue of the present Educational crisis would place the burden of religious teaching on the shoulders of their teachers more than ever before. He also suggested that a better use might be made of the Week-Night services.

The Rev. Tyler Tyers said that the increase reported was not a guarantee of the good which had been done. Many of the children had been converted, but the numbers did not appear in the report.

The Rev. T. M. Pinnock thought that more good would be done if in each school there were three good teachers, whilst the rest of the teachers would engage to work to win the children. There was a difference between teaching the children and winning them.

Rev. J. S. Nightingale submitted that if they were to keep their ground the place of the minister in the schools would have to be of a closer character than at present, and he too thought that the week-night services might be better utilised. A lay-delegate said that he had not heard anything in the discussion which was new to him, and he reminded them of a little book on Sunday School Reform which had been published by the Old Bailey Union.

The Rev. S. S. Henshaw (Secretary) said the increase for the year was about the average.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS ON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

The Rev. S. S. Henshaw proposed the following resolutions:

That we express our deep gratitude to Almighty God for the marks of His favour and blessing which have been so abundantly manifested in the life and progress of our Sunday schools during the year. We rejoice not only in the increasing numbers of teachers and scholars, but in the increasing signs of spirituality and devotion, and in the evidences there are of the presence and evidence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of so many of our young people, and of those who have undertaken to instruct and perfect them in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

That the Conference regrets to notice the gradual decline in the number of our Sunday School Libraries, and earnestly commends to the consideration of Sunday school authorities the desirability of providing our young people with sound and interesting moral and religious literature.

These were seconded and adopted.

#### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

President of Conference, G. E. Butt, W. Beckworth, J. P., D. Sheen, G. Bennett, H. Yooll, E. Dalton, J. Welford, J. Pickett, G. T. D. Pidsley, W. Hickman, G. T. Fawcett, S. Shepherd, A. Jubb, A. Smith, E. Campbell, W. Glass, J. C. Mantripp, H. G. Stone, G. Hunt, W. E. Parker, W. J. T. Scruby, J. Sweeper, H. Errington, A. Lax, T. Storr, J. Simmonds, C. Spooner, E. A. Howe, G. Trusler, E. Lowther, J. P., W. H. Taylor, J. E. Harris, C. C. Goodall, J. Gillender, J. Kendall, W. Franks, F. E. Gray, J. W. Grayson, C. K. Watkinson, C. Humble, M. Hornsby, J. P. Read, W. Pedley, D. Driver, W. L. Taylor, W. Starling, J. W. Whittaker, J. Burnip, A. W. Welford, F. M. Ridge, A. Warcup, W. Watson, W. Tyler, T. H. Hunt, J. Johnson (2), W. Spedding. J. Harrison, Treasurer, Commercial Buildings, Park Row, Leeds; S. S. Henshaw,

Secretary. To meet at Swan St., Loughborough, Wednesday, October 11th, at 2 p.m.; and Friday, October 12th, 1905, at 9 a.m.; and at Petre Street, Sheffield, Wednesday, April 11th, at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, April 12th, 1906, at 9 a.m.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

D. Sheen, G. Bennett, T. H. Hunt, J. Johnson, E. Dalton, C. Humble, J. Harrison, A. Lax, D. Driver, W. E. Parker, J. Kendall, F. E. Gray, W. Spedding, and S. S. Henshaw, Secretary. To meet at Leeds, July 7th and December 7th, 11 a.m.; Swan Street, Loughborough, October 11th, 1905, 11 a.m., and at Petre Street, Sheffield, April 11th, 1906, 11 a.m.

#### SPECIAL DAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford, it was decided that Sunday and Monday, October 15th and 16th, should be the Young People's days, and that the authorities should be requested to make careful preparation for their effective observance.

#### SCHOLARS' EXAMINATION.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford, Wednesday, November 1st, was fixed as the date for the examination.

#### TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

The Rev. John Welford moved that Wednesday, November 8th, be the date for the teachers' examination. This was adopted.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the Conference hears with pleasure of the establishment by the General Sunday School Committee of a Home Department of the Sunday School in connection with our Union, and heartily commends the Department to the favourable consideration of our Sunday School Authorities. The Conference believes that its adoption and vigorous and judicious management by them would result in great blessing and would help to revive the interest, extend the ministry and increase the strength of our Sunday Schools. Seconded and carried.

#### A New Departure: THE MORSE LECTURESHIP.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the report of the Morse Lecture presented by the General Sunday School Committee, together with the recommendations of the Committee for the regulation of the Lecture, be received and adopted, and that the Report be entered upon the minutes of the Conference.

Seconded and carried.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the Conference, in receiving and approving the report of the General Sunday School Committee re the Morse Sunday School Union Lecture, beg to convey to Alderman L. L. Morse, J.P., its hearty thanks for this renewed token of his loyalty and service to our beloved Church, and to express its high appreciation of the practical wisdom and value of the Lecture and the assurance of its belief that it will prove a most useful agency in emphasising the claims and promoting the efficiency of our Sunday School work. The Conference would also take this opportunity of wishing Mr. Morse a continuance of the Divine favour and blessing, and prays that for many years he may be spared to render generous help and encouragement to Good Christian enterprises both within and beyond the borders of our own Churches.

This was seconded and carried.

#### MORSE LECTURER FOR 1907.

The General Committee Secretary moved that the Rev. Thomas H. Hunt be the Morse Lecturer for 1907, and that the subject of the lecture be fixed during the year, and reported to the next Conference.

This was seconded and carried.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETY AND BAND OF HOPE UNION REPORT.

It is with pleasure that we report to you that the year just closed, like those preceding it, has been a year of progress.

During the year, although an examination of the returns shows that nearly a hundred Band of Hope Societies have, for various reasons, been given up, we have a nett increase of 33, bringing up the total to 2,247. Keeping in mind that so many societies have been given up, and that many junior members have been transferred to Senior Societies, it is satisfactory to find that there has been a nett increase of 3,026 members, making the total number of Band of Hope members 166,092.

The adult Societies have increased by 13, and the number of members enrolled in such Societies by 1,602, so that we have now 386 adult Societies, with 15,396 members. Although the adult Societies increase year by year, the progress is slow. This is to be regretted when we take into account the ravages of drink, the activity of the trade, and the facilities we have for temperance organisations and work. Local Societies might easily be started by a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, a Teachers' Meeting, or a Christian Endeavour Society; and there are very few places, even small places where the work could not be done.

It is remarkable, and at the same time a regrettable fact, that we have nearly as many schools without Bands of Hope as with them. In order to keep up interest in Temperance work in those schools, and lead to organised endeavour, we send out at considerable cost pledge signed sheets every year, one for each class in every Sunday School. In this way we make it possible and easy for the schools to say how many of their teachers and scholars are total abstainers, and in this way we arrive at the result that in connection with our Sunday Schools we have now 271,603 juvenile abstainers, or a total of 381,871, a nett increase for the year under the two sections of 5,455.

We are pleased to record that our instructions as to pledge signing and making the annual returns are better observed than formerly, and regard the returns as approximately accurate.

The list of subscriptions from Bands of Hope and adult Temperance Societies shows a slight advance on previous years; but a considerable number of Societies have yet to send their first subscriptions.

During the year we have co-operated with the National Temperance Federation, the United Kingdom Alliance, and the Band of Hope Union, and other organisations, thus taking our share in the much needed work of temperance reform.

We steadfastly opposed the Government Licensing Bill of last year, regarding it as a further endowment of the trade and an additional barrier in the way of Temperance Reform. We have also reported such measures as Sunday Closing, Local Veto, and the non-employment of young women as barmaids.

On the motion of the Rev. T. H. Hunt the above report was adopted.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the Rev. T. H. Hunt be Secretary, and Mr. John Harrison, Treasurer. This was agreed to.

#### TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

On the motion of the Rev. T. H. Hunt, Nov. 26th was fixed on as Temperance Sunday.

#### A Keen Breeze.

There was a very spirited discussion on a resolution prepared by the Temperance Committee and submitted by the Rev. J. S. Nightingale, instructing our members to vote only for those Parliamentary candidates who would support Temperance proposals.

The Rev. James Shepherd, calling attention to the political aspect of the resolution, said that while he was interested in Temperance work, he hoped the Conference would hesitate before committing itself to such a drastic resolution.

The Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) hoped that as a church they would never again trim on that subject.

Mr. H. Adams said that whilst he condemned drinking as strongly as any man, yet he hoped that there would be no undue interference with political matters. He strongly objected to many things which had been published in certain papers, and he thought that they had no right to ask them to pledge themselves to any such course.

Rev. Thomas Jackson said that it did not mean that they were to vote only for those candidates who would pledge themselves to support the whole of their temperance programme.

Mr. J. J. Applebey thought that that part of the resolution should be struck out, for in his opinion it did not mean that they were to pledge themselves to vote only for those candidates who were in favour of the whole of their programme. There were other questions, he said, as important as that of temperance, and though he spoke as a temperance man, yet they had no right to ask their members and candidates to pledge themselves to do what the resolution indicated.

The Rev. James Griffen hoped that clause would not be struck out. He was proud of the stand which his church had taken, and though he held strong political views, yet he would hesitate to stand on a political platform with any candidate who was shaky on the temperance question. To strike out such a clause would weaken their position and lower the flag.

On the suggestion of the Vice-President (Mr. E. C. Rawlings) the word 'only' was dropped, and in that form the resolution was adopted.

A series of special resolutions on Temperance Work was then submitted and adopted.

#### BIBLE READING AND PRAYER UNION REPORT.

In submitting the 16th Annual Report of this Union, it is our pleasure to report further success in our work. We began the year with 1,880 branches and a membership of 81,000, and on December 31st we had added 41 new branches and 1,000 members. Since January 1st of this year, however, we have registered 140 more branches and 10,000 additional members, so that we have the joy of reporting to you this year 2,061 Branches, with a total membership of 92,000.

This we regard as a splendid record for the year, and one that ought to provoke gratitude in all our hearts. It is certain that there is a growing disposition among our people to prayerfully read the Word of God.

The Branch at Kedleston Street, Derby, still occupies the highest position in point of membership, a position of honour it has held for several years past.

It will be of considerable interest to you to know that about 30 of the new Branches reported to this Conference have been established within the area of the Welsh Revival, thus indicating that a sure method of promoting increased Bible study is to breathe the atmosphere of aggressive spiritual work.

We regret that, for some reason, 193 Branches have lapsed. Last year these Branches had an aggregate membership of about 3,500, so that had they been continued with only the same membership, good as it is, our Union would have been considerably stronger. We are not without hope, however, that these Branches will be revived, and that they will then put on increased vigour and strength.

The Rev. Joseph Johnson (Secretary) said that association with the Union would have at least three good results.

1. It would create a greater fondness for the Word of God.
2. It would promote family worship.
3. It would encourage private devotion.

The report was adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford, the Rev. Joseph Johnson was appointed secretary.

#### CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR REPORT.

There has been a net increase of 88 societies, thus enabling us to record 2,022 in the Senior department.

The active members now number 56,643, this being an increase of 4,149. We are gratified to find that 51,929 of the active members are members of the church, an increase upon last year of 3,782. These increases well sustain those of previous years. Of the Associate members 2,876 have been transferred to the active list, and yet we are able to report 15,084, which is an increase of 614.

You will rejoice to know that the increase is spread over the entire connexion.

The work among the Juniors still flourishes. There is a net increase of 91 societies, thus giving to us now an aggregate of 1,016. The membership reaches the total of 34,403, showing an increase of 4,049.

We have, therefore, at the present time 3,038 societies, senior and junior, and a total membership of 106,130. This imposes upon the Church a great trust and an unspeakable opportunity. The Council has for several years been developing aspects of work among our young people which cannot fail to be of permanent benefit to them.

The Reading Union, under the guidance of the Rev. P. McPhail, is rendering valuable service to an increasing number yearly. And the taste for books of an elevating kind thus cultivated will permanently elevate their lives. The Holiday Tour department, under the management of the Revs. G. G. Martindale and W. Spedding, is also widely appreciated, and beneficial in many indirect ways.

Throughout the year efforts have been persistently made to raise the sum of £1,000 from the Endeavour Societies for the building of the Missionary Training Institute at Oron.

The Rev. John Welford moved that the report be received and adopted.

In speaking to the report, the Rev. George Bennett (Secre-

tary) said as a Society it had advanced year by year, and he urged the Conference to realise how great was its opportunity in relation to such a vast host of young people. He also referred to the valuable service that was being rendered by the Rev. P. McPhail in connection with the Reading Circles.

#### Rev. W. Younger.

The Rev. W. Younger said they were now considering what was perhaps the most important institution in their church. An institution which yielded 25 per cent. of their membership he thought should have careful attention. He proceeded to say that he had a growing conviction that their basis of membership was at fault, and that it was a very strange thing that so many of their young people could be members of the C.E., and yet not members of the Church. He thought that the time had come when they should have an understanding as to the basis of membership, for young people who were members of the C.E., and yet who paid nothing, were a loss to the connexion. Neither did he think that their association with the International C.E. movement was over helpful to them.

The Rev. James Pickett (Missionary Secretary) called attention to the £1000 which had been raised, on the initiation of Mr. Bennett, for the building of the Oron Institution in Africa. In this, he said, the C.E. Societies had done splendid work.

The Rev. J. Griffin said that he thought that all members of the C.E. should be regarded as members of the church, and he hoped the day would never come when they would not be affiliated with the International C.E.

The Rev. J. S. Nightingale called attention to the method of reporting the Junior members of the C.E., and thought that some change should be made.

Mr. Henry Adams referred to a C.E. Society in which every member was a member of the church and every one a subscriber.

The Rev. George Bennett (Secretary) replied, saying that the proportion of C.E. members who were not members of the church was only two per society. He also remarked that he did not regret the dual memberships and hoped that they would not deprecate the International movement.

The report was adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. George Bennett the following resolutions were adopted:—

The Conference expresses its pleasure at the reported growth of the work among the young people of the church. It is with much satisfaction that the Conference learns there is an increase of 88 senior societies and of 4,149 active members, and of 3,782 active members who are members of the church. This increase, it is gratifying to know, is drawn from all parts of the connexion, thus showing that not in one locality only, but that throughout the whole of the church there is health and prosperity among the Endeavourers.

The Conference is impressed with the great opportunity that comes to the church through the organisation of Christian Endeavour, which now, in its Senior and Junior departments, has an aggregate of 3,038 societies and 106,130 members, for whom we thank our Lord, and for whose blessing we pray upon the work.

That Mr. John Harrison be the Treasurer of the Central Council Fund.

That Rev. W. Spedding be Secretary.

That the S.S. Executive be the Central Council, with the addition of the Rev. W. Spedding.

#### THANKS TO REV. GEORGE BENNETT.

The Rev. H. J. Pickett moved the following resolution:—

'That this Conference places on record its hearty appreciation of the services rendered to the C.E. department of our Church by the Rev. George Bennett during the nine years he has acted as Secretary. The Conference recognises the conspicuous organising ability, the ungrudging devotion with which the Secretary has served the important interests of our C.E. Institution; and while thanking Mr. Bennett on his laying down his office, rejoices to know that larger opportunities await Mr. Bennett's special fitness to serve the interests of the young people of our Church.'

This was seconded by the Rev. G. Trusler and enthusiastically carried.

The Conference adjourned at 5 p.m.

#### MONDAY Morning, June 19th.

The delegates arrived in good numbers this morning for the opening of the Conference proceedings, and there was a universal expression of the pleasure and inspiration received from the Sunday services. The President (Rev. G. E. Butt) announced the hymn, 'I lift my heart to Thee,' after the singing of which he read the second chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians. The assembly was then led in prayer by Mr. J. Longhurst and the Rev. A. Warcup.

#### A CHANGE OF APPOINTMENT.

In consideration of the President's many engagements, the Rev. John Welford (General Missionary Secretary) moved that in place of the President, the Rev. John Hallam and Councillor S. Hilton should reply to the addresses of representatives from other churches. This was seconded and adopted.

#### THE RETIRING C.E. SECRETARY.

The General Missionary Secretary (the Rev. James Pickett) said that before going to any other business he wished to move a resolution which would help complete the business of Saturday in relation to the Rev. G. Bennett, the retiring C.E. Secretary. A resolution of thanks had already been passed to Mr. Bennett, but he thought that something more than that was required. He moved therefore:—

'That the foregoing resolution should be sent to the C.E. Central Committee to be inscribed and presented to Mr. Bennett in a more practical form.'

The Rev. H. J. Pickett, who spoke again of the unique services Mr. Bennett had rendered, seconded the resolution, which was then adopted.

#### CONFERENCE THANKED.

A letter was read from the Rev. Joseph Shenton thanking the Conference for its letter of sympathy to him on his retirement from the active ministry. The Rev. John Welford remarked that great credit was due to the letter writers for such attention to their duties.

#### A DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE.

During the reading of the journal Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., arrived, and on the motion of the Rev. John Welford, he was received and welcomed. The Rev. G. E. Butt (President) said that he also took the opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to Mr. Hartley.



## REPORT OF BOOK COMMITTEE.

In presenting our Yearly Report and Balance Sheet for the past Connexional year, it is cause for thankfulness that, considering the general depression in the publishing trade, we have had a fairly successful year. Our sales are slightly in advance of last year, and our profits show an increase of £300.

We have written off the usual depreciation of premises, fixtures and stock, and have repaid the £500 to the S.P.W. and O. Fund, leaving the amount borrowed at £5,500. It is desired that in addition to the grant of £3,500 paid to the S.P.W. and O. Fund, we should pay 3½ per cent. interest on the borrowed sum of £5,500, which we hope to be able to do this next year to help meet the additional claims made upon that Fund.

We regret to report that, with the exception of a slight increase of the 'Christian Messenger,' the 'S.S. Journal,' and 'Review,' there is a decrease in the circulation of the magazines for the current year. It would be cause for thankfulness could this decline in the circulation of the magazines be stopped, and a turn upwards be realised. This we think could be done if our ministers and officials would unite in a determined effort to accomplish it.

We have published during the year the Hartley Lecture for 1904, by Prof. A. S. Peake, which has had a pretty good sale, also the Mission Hymnal and Mission Hymnal Tune Book, and 'Hugh Morrigill' by the Rev. Joseph Ritson. Mr. W. P. Hartley, in his generosity, has this year given 'The Life of Rev. Hugh Price Hughes,' and Prof. A. S. Peake's Commentary on Job to the ministers, and offered to all local preachers and Sunday school teachers Mr. Peake's Commentary on Job and Hebrews, also his book on 'The Problem of Suffering,' at half-price. This has considerably helped the turn-over of the Book-room for the year, and both ministers, local preachers, and Sunday school teachers have expressed their gratitude to Mr. Hartley for this generous gift.

The business done in the Book Saloon is somewhat less than last year, and leaves a slight deficiency in the year's working. The conveyance of the Book Premises to the Bourne Trust Corporation, Limited, has been completed during the year, and the said Corporation is now the recognised trustee of the premises for the Conference.

We have duly recorded our appreciation of the valuable services of the retiring Book Steward, and our sympathy with him in his enforced superannuation.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary), said that they all regretted the absence of the retiring Book Steward (Rev. Robert Bryant) on account of personal affliction. He moved that the report be received and adopted. This was seconded and carried.

## DISCUSSION ON BOOK ROOM AFFAIRS.

The Rev. John Welford moved the adoption of the Balance Sheet. This was seconded.

Councillor Cliffe wished to know if there would be any further statement of the Book Room affairs.

Rev. John Welford, who said that it was not in his power to give the required statement, intimated that the new Book Steward, Rev. E. Dalton, was present, and that he would no doubt be prepared to make a statement or to answer questions.

## Rev. E. DALTON.

Rev. E. Dalton, in thanking the Conference for an opportunity of appearing before them, said that he was scarcely in a position to help the Conference much. He intimated, however, that whilst there was a small deficiency, yet if the Book Saloon were not there an additional man would have been required, and in that case there was a nett gain rather than an actual deficiency.

Councillor Cliffe claimed that the resolution of a previous Conference had been ignored, and that there ought to have been a financial report.

Rev. E. Dalton replied that a detailed statement had been prepared and that the question had been gone into thoroughly.

Mr. W. Gledhill called particular attention to the matter of insurance in relation to the Book Saloon.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, congratulating the President, said he wished to have a word on the subject of the Book Committee fund. He remarked that he was not one of those who thought that the Book Saloon was a good thing, and he thought that the Book Saloon was in the wrong place. He said that it was right in the fire zone, where they had to pay five or six times more for insurance than would have to be paid in some other area. He then asked if the £300 profit referred to in the report was an actual profit? He thought that the real profit was £51, and asked Mr. Dalton whether he, as the incoming Book Steward, really thought that the stock was worth £20,846. He regarded the estimate as far too high. If the concern, he said, were carried on as a business firm, then the valuation of stock would much lower.

In reply, the Rev. E. Dalton said that a Committee went through the stock and came to the conclusion that the stock should be reduced between £800 and £1000, and accordingly it was reduced £800. Subsequently the stock was gone through again, and at that time he felt that the value should be considerably reduced; but the Committee thought that they had gone far enough in that direction as most of the stock in hand was being partly reduced by continuous sales. He quite agreed with Mr. Hartley as to the value of the stock.

Councillor Cliffe asked for the resolution of last Conference to be read.

Mr. G. Green, J.P., said that he was not surprised that there was a loss on the Book Saloon, for in his judgment the place itself was not tempting and the class of goods not inviting. He thought that greater prominence should be given to purely religious literature.

Councillor Cliffe inquired as to the number of bicycles there was in stock.

Rev. E. Dalton replied that no bicycles were kept in stock, and that they only sold to ministers and their families. He humourously added that if there were any bicycles to be tested he was the man to test them. Rev. W. A. Eyre asked why they were so gingerly about the selling of bicycles. He did not like the distinction that was made by some of the speakers, for, in his opinion, other things as objectionable as bicycles were sold at the Saloon.

Councillor Hilton said that if the shop was properly managed and suitably stocked, and that if the windows were properly dressed, undoubtedly the business would be a success.

Rev. John Hallam remarked that the Committee was doing its best to improve matters.

Dr. Wilshaw strongly appealed for the Book Room business

to be removed from London to Manchester. He said that by that means from £1,200 to £1,500 would be saved.

The Rev. W. Wheeler thought that more books of our own might be published by the Book Room to profit.

Mr. J. A. Ashby urged that the present monopoly in the sale of their literature should be done away, and that their publications should be thrown upon the market.

The balance sheet was adopted.

The Rev. John Welford (General Committee Secretary) moved that the Conference expressed its thanks to the Book Committee for the proposed grant of £3,500 to the S. P. W. and O. Fund.

This being seconded, an amendment was proposed, and after considerable discussion the amendment was adopted.

The Rev. E. Dalton (the appointed Book Steward) then urged the members of the Conference to give increased attention to this department. He thought that the laymen should specially take up the appeal in the interests of the Book Room.

## LEGISLATION ON CONSTITUTION OF BOOK COMMITTEE.

Rev. Henry Yooll (Editor) moved that the Legislation from the General Committee on the Constitution of the Book Committee be adopted as follows:—

'The Book Committee shall consist of twenty-two members, including the General Book Steward, Vice Book Steward, and Ex-Book Steward, Editor and Vice-Editor, General Committee Secretary, General Missionary Secretary, and Sunday School Union Secretary for the time being, together with fourteen other persons to be freely elected by ballot in Conference, and four of whom shall retire each year, but shall be eligible for re-election, the order of retiring to be determined by the number of votes received, beginning with the lowest. The number of attendances of each member of the Committee shall be incorporated in the Committee's Report to Conference.'

He said at the present there was no rule regulating the Constitution of the Book Committee, and the adoption of that legislation would remove the anomaly. Whilst it was important there should be continuity in the management of the Book Room affairs, it was also important that there should be free election by ballot in Conference every year.

## The Book Room Again.

Rev. Joseph Johnson thought the legislation was in the right direction and would therefore second the resolution. He hoped the Committee would meet oftener than it had done. He believed it had only held four meetings during the past year. If it was possible for them to meet oftener, he suggested that an Executive should be appointed, which would give closer attention to the concerns of the Book Depot. The appearance of the premises was a subject of much comment, the uncleanness of the windows had been a source of great ridicule. He hoped they would place men on this Committee who would give attention to the work.

Mr. Henry Adams asked, if fourteen were to be freely elected by ballot in Conference, and four were to retire each year, how they would manage when they came to the fourth year, as there would only be two wanted, and the legislation said they were to appoint four. The General Committee Secretary had, he said, foreseen that difficulty, and favoured going back to the original number of twenty, and have twelve, if not fourteen, elected by Conference.

A Layman moved that the number be twenty-three, and that fifteen be elected by Conference, and five retire annually. This was not seconded.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., agreed with the suggestion of the General Committee Secretary, and moved that the number be reduced from fourteen to twelve, to be freely elected in Conference.

The Editor, accepting this alteration, seconded Mr. Hartley's proposition.

Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., said that a business concern like the Publishing House should be largely managed by business men. The eight names that had not to go to the ballot were all Ministers, and if twelve members only were to be elected in open Conference, they should provide for a sufficient number of laymen who would attend. He looked upon the Committee as a most important directorate of a large and important business. At the last Committee only two laymen were present, all the rest being Ministers. They ought to guard against the Book Room management drifting entirely into the hands of the Ministers. They should safeguard the business by seeing that at least half of the Committee were laymen.

A layman moved that the 12 to be elected should be all laymen.

Mr. Councillor Cliff seconded, believing that it would put the Book Room on a better footing altogether, and would introduce a bit of Free Trade, which would be very helpful.

Rev. Thomas Jackson (London) said if the 12 were to be laymen exclusively, and the Conference had no option in appointing a minister, it would be a great mistake. He said a minister might be a far better business man than a layman. This was largely a minister's question. No layman could be so interested in the prosperity of the Book Room as the ministers. The ministers might mar or make the concern, as the sales were largely in their own hands.

Mr. Thomas Lawrence now moved that they should settle first of all the question of the number to be elected, and then determine the quality afterwards.

This was seconded and carried.

A layman moved that there should be 10 laymen and 2 ministers. This was seconded.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., said he was not unfavourable to 10 laymen. The 8 official ministers already appointed had much more opportunity and time to attend, and even if they appointed laymen they would still have a preponderance of ministers present at the Committee.

Rev. Joseph Johnson said it was extremely important that the interests of the Station Book Stewards should be properly represented on the Committee. It was important that they should have men appointed who were free from any relation to the institution, and that the Station Book Stewards should have direct representation on the Committee.

Ultimately the amendment was carried, and it was decided that ten laymen and two ministers be elected. Nominations were then taken, it being resolved that the list should be printed, a star placed against the names of those who were members of the existing Committee.

Mr. W. P. Hartley said he would like to know what was the position of the Book Room Committee, whether it was to be a

Board of Directors to act, or could the General Book Steward act on his own initiative apart from the Committee.

After the Rules had been read relating to the Book Stewardship the Vice-President said he thought that the Book Steward was bound to conform to the ruling of the Book Committee, as he was amenable to the Book Committee.

## RESOLUTION ON EDUCATION.

The Rev. James Pickett, secretary, moved the following resolution:—

That this Conference approves its persistent antagonism to the Education Acts of 1902-3, and it determines to continue to agitate for their radical modification or their entire repeal.

It records the strong conviction that the administration of these Acts abundantly reveals their essential injustice and the great hurt they inflict on the best education, while that administration has introduced a discord into public affairs which is detrimental to the highest interests of the nation.

It again declares its view that this Imperial matter must be liberated from all sectarian influence and control; that there must be a complete abolition of every ecclesiastical and sectarian test, and that nothing must be allowed in this branch of the civil service which in any degree violates religious equality.

The Conference once more urges all Primitive Methodists to continue to strenuously resist these educational injustices, and to be connected with no settlement which does not make education purely national, absolutely unsectarian, and under complete popular control.

The Conference also assures our people of its fullest sympathy with the position taken up by those whose consciences compel them to passively resist the demands of the law, and it rejoices that in this movement Primitive Methodists have taken a most honourable position. It earnestly hopes the Passive Resistance movement will be vigorously supported by all the members of our churches.

## Rev. James Pickett.

In moving this resolution he said he wished to express his sense of obligation to Rev. A. T. Guttery, who had taken the lion's share of the work in regard to that matter during the year. He had retained the position of Education Secretary with the distinct understanding that Mr. Guttery should take charge of the special work pertaining to the Passive Resistance movement; and he wished to bear his testimony to the splendid help Mr. Guttery had rendered, which had greatly relieved him.

He did not wish to speak at any length to the Resolution as Mr. Guttery would address the Conference, but he wished to say that the administration of these nefarious enactments abundantly demonstrated the justice of their contentions and gave new accentuation to the claim that they made. The recent revelations touching the education of the children of the Metropolis was the most damning evidence that they had received in later days of the corrupt character of these educational arrangements. It showed that the contention of the true educationalists was not only sound, but urgent.

## Rev. A. T. Guttery.

The Rev. Arthur T. Guttery, on ascending the platform, was enthusiastically received as he thanked the House for allowing him to say a word or two on the question of the education of child life. He had attended the Police Court at Scarborough on Friday last, when he was allowed to speak on behalf of the Scarborough resisters. The scene there was more like a Methodist lovefeast than the police courts he was accustomed to. It was evident the Scarborough Resisters had made an impression on the bench. It was customary to refer to magistrates as a Bench, but they deserved a name not so suggestive of woodenness as that.

He said that Passive Resisters had come into English life to stay until their work was done. That work would only be done when they had driven the Priest out of the schools completely, and let the people in, entirely to govern the schools they paid for. The one Primitive Methodist he had least respect for was he who said he admired the passive resisters and thought they were brave fellows, but kept urging excuses why he was not a resister. He was no hero. The passive resistance movement had revived ideals in the nation, and saved England from Birmingham. It had shaken to its foundations the worst government of modern times, which hung on to office by its eyelids, without authority, without prestige, and without moral sanction, and lived in terror of the General Election because they knew it would be fought on conscience. The government would die to-morrow if it dared, but it had no faith in the doctrine of a general resurrection. In place of this Education Act they wanted a national system, administered by popularly elected authorities elected on that particular issue.

This movement was made for the re-union of Christendom. The difficulty in the past had been to get to know their Anglican brethren. This they were now overcoming. By going to prison they came in touch with them, for there they were always to be found in the majority. They had now to face the task of constructive statesmanship, and must insist that all Sectarian Dogma should go out of the schools, and the pure Bible readings only be admitted.

The resolution was carried amidst remarkable enthusiasm, and the Conference rose.

Monday Afternoon, June 19th.

The Conference Church was well filled when the President (Rev. G. E. Butt) gave out the opening Hymn, 'Jesus, I my cross have taken,' which was heartily sung.

Mr. H. Farrimond of the Liverpool District and Rev. Robert Hind led the devotions, after which the Delegates and friends sang, 'Arise my Soul, Arise.'

## MINISTERIAL RE-ADMISSION.

It was resolved on the motion of the General Committee Secretary that A. Bradley East be re-admitted into the ranks of the ministry.

## REPORT OF THE CONNEXIONAL ORPHANAGE.

The General Secretary moved the following Report, which with the Balance Sheet was adopted:—

We very gratefully report a general and cheering prosperity in every matter committed by you to our oversight and administration.

The ordinary income from the Circuits has been increased £87 10s. 9d. over the income of last year, whilst there has been contributed for the Harrogate extension project £712 17s. 9d.

The property at Alresford, in its completed condition of re-

pair, alteration, and equipment, according to the sanction of previous Conferences, is splendidly suitable for its intended uses, and is a credit to our church.

The religious work of the Home has received careful attention from the master and matron, and there are many evidences of a very cheering character that this work has been blessed of God to the children's good.

The educational work of the Home has obtained from the usual examiner a very creditable report; whilst the Scriptural examination held in connection with the Sunday School Committee of the Salisbury and Southampton District reflected an enviable credit both upon the children of the Home and their teachers.

#### The Orphanage Secretary.

Rev. J. F. Porter (Orphanage Secretary), speaking to the report, said the work of the Home continued to be done in a way which gave pleasure to everyone concerned. They had not a single case of discouragement with regard to a child in the home. At the Alresford Home they had no difficulties to face, all was working smoothly and satisfactorily.

So far as they could ascertain, the Harrogate project had given universal satisfaction. It would be necessary to proceed with the work at the earliest possible moment as they had 10 children applying for admission over and above what they had room for.

They were exceedingly anxious that the land at Harrogate should be paid for during the year. £100 had been received in response to their appeal, in addition to about £100 increased income for Alresford.

If sixpence per member was given throughout the Connexion the desired result would be achieved. This could easily be done, especially if each school would place in the hands of their scholars an envelope to take home, with instructions to solicit help from their parents.

He commended the good work, which was a most Christly one to the Connexion.

The Vice-President seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. Robinson (Grimsby and Lincoln District) had pleasure in stating that the schools in his District had taken up the Orphanage question most heartily and had done splendidly, especially in the rural parts of the District.

#### ORPHAN HOME GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The Trustees of the Alresford and Harrogate Orphanage Properties, the Orphan Home Management Committee, the President of the Conference, G. E. Butt, J. Griffin, H. G. Broomfield, J. T. Gooderidge, S. Hilton, T. Sykes, D. Raiton, M. T. Pickering, B. Haswell, H. Fleming, W. M. Burton, A. Morton, G. A. Genney, W. C. Tonks, G. C. Hobbs, W. Bennin, M. M. Waterhouse, J. Blayney, C. R. Stevens, F. Shergold, T. W. Britten, J. Squires, T. Waite, J. Barnes, R. Lees, A. Brown, J. Gorton, J. Mayles, Dr. R. H. Wilshaw, G. Thorp, C. Hindmarsh, W. Turner, T. Robinson, C. Pettler, H. J. Mein, F. E. Thistlethwaite, J. Parkin, W. Lawrence, J. Whittaker, W. Carrer, A. Smith, J. Ashworth, E. Harvey, A. Clark, G. E. Fish, L. Miles, H. Holland, J. Sadler, J. H. Watters, T. L. Page, F. Harrison, R. Harrison, W. Shipley, J. Phillipson, T. Saunders, H. R. Mansfield, M.P., T. Robinson (Hurrell), H. Adams, C. K. Watkinson, C. B. Howdill, T. Fletcher, W. Stockton, J.P., J. T. Jeffrey, J. Hewitson, Treasurer, 4 Queen's Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. F. Porter, 197 Barking Road, Canning Town, London, E., General Secretary.

Rev. J. F. Porter presented the Report of the Legacies and Gifts Trustees, which was adopted.

#### TRUSTEES OF LEGACIES AND GIFTS.

The following were appointed:—J. Hewitson, J. Coward, J. T. Barkby, S. Hilton, and J. F. Porter.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE HARROGATE EXTENSION.

The following were re-appointed:—J. Hewitson, A. Chippindale, J. Shepherd, B. Haswell, J. F. Porter, and J. T. Barkby Secretary and Convener.

#### REPORT OF THE CHAPEL AID ASSOCIATION.

This was adopted as follows, together with the Balance Sheet—The Directors have much pleasure in forwarding to the Conference their Fifteenth Annual Report, which shows a large increase in the amount of business transacted.

The Deposit Account for the year is £70,528, and withdrawals have been made amounting to £33,625. Loans have been advanced to trustees amounting to £73,128, and repayments have been received amounting to £42,048. The total deposit account is now £389,419.

During the period the Association has been in operation, Trustees, through its agency, have reduced their liabilities £206,345.

The Revenue Account for the year shows a profit of £804. Of this amount a grant of £250 has been made to the Church Extension Fund, and £554 has been carried to the Reserve Fund.

The services of the various officers of the Association have been duly recognised.

The Directors have to record, with sincere sorrow, the death of the Rev. Jesse Ashworth. He had served the Association from its foundation as a director, and always manifested an earnest and intelligent interest in its affairs.

#### Rev. R. Hind.

The Rev. Robert Hind, the secretary, speaking to the report said that the Association had issued more than 4,000 cheques during the year, and there were single days when no fewer than 650 letters were handed in to the office. During the year £230,000 had passed through the hands of the Secretary, so they would see the office was no sinecure. The Association saved the Trust Boards of the Connexion in mortgages alone from £1,500 to £1,700 per year. It had given £250 to the Church Extension Fund during the year, which was the fourth gift, making £1,000 handed over to the said Fund. He wished to acknowledge the unstinted service rendered to the Association by Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., and Mr. J. Coward, J.P.

#### Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P.

Mr. W. P. Hartley said that Scarborough was his first Conference, 18 years ago, and he was pleased to be there that day to speak a word on behalf of the Association. He was anxious that the delegates present should take up the remaining shares that were not disposed of. They had a capital of £50,000, but only £31,290 had been allotted in £10 shares. They had only called up five shillings per share, and he felt sure that when only the delegates rightly understood the good work the

Association was doing there would be no difficulty in disposing of the remaining shares. The Association was no longer on its trial, for its success had been assured long ago.

Mr. Geo. Green, J.P. (Ex-Vice-President) made an excellent appeal as a Shareholder to the Brethren to take up the shares.

The Rev. W. A. French (Conference Secretary) suggested that where Trustees had balances in the Bank it would be better if they would transfer the money to the Chapel Aid Association and receive the larger interest which it gave.

The Secretary (Rev. R. Hind) said the fact of 5s. only having been paid upon a £10 share was a strong guarantee of the soundness of the Association. He was glad to find that Trustees who were contemplating building, and had accumulated funds, often placed their money with the Association, which was always repaid promptly on application.

A Lay Delegate asked information by citing a case. Supposing, said he, 'I had a son, and I had £500, in the Chapel Aid Association, could I let it stand there, with the interest to accumulate in his favour until my death?'

The Secretary explained that it could be done by his sending the Cheque for the interest regularly to the Executors, who would return it duly endorsed with instructions for the amount to be added to the Deposit.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., and Mr. W. Beckworth, J.P., were re-appointed Treasurers, and Rev. R. Hind Secretary.

#### INSURANCE COMPANY REPORT.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN.—The Directors have pleasure in submitting to you their Thirty-ninth Annual Report, which shows a substantial increase in the amount of business transacted.

During the year 182 policies have been issued, bringing the total number issued since the Company began business to 8,983. The number of current policies is 5,775.

The claims paid during the year amount to £1,283 18s. 2d., being £265 7s. 4d. more than last year. The Directors have made grants to chapels amounting to £766 16s. 10d. The total amount granted by the Company to Trustees amounts to £22,097 2s. 10d.

The Company has now a Reserve Fund of £31,960 10s. 6d., of which sum £916 1s. 5d. is cash balance.

Rev. John Welford moved that the Report and Balance Sheet of the Insurance Fund be received and adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford, the Rev. Robert Hind was appointed Secretary, and Mr. Richard Fletcher, Treasurer.

#### Mr. J. COWARD, J.P.

Speaking to the Report, Mr. John Coward, J.P., said that he was glad to have the privilege to say a few words in relation to their Insurance Company. He observed that they had paid in claims £1,283, which was an increase of £265 7s. 4d. During the last two years they had not made any grants, but he said that they had it under consideration to make grants to several cases in the near future. He said that grants had been made of £250 to the General Chapel Fund, and £250 to the Church Extension Fund, and £29,097 had been paid in grants to the Trustees. They had a Reserve Fund of £32,000, but he wished to see that raised to £50,000. Their investments, he said, were good, and their interest regularly received. The business had so increased that they had had to engage a second clerk. He referred to a letter which had appeared in the 'Primitive Methodist World,' by 'Observer,' in relation to the appointment of their best man as Secretary for such a Company, and which letter he regarded as a covered attack on the Rev. Robert Hind. But he thought that they needed their very best men for such a purpose as that, for the material prosperity of their Church was closely allied with its spiritual prosperity.

The Rev. Robert Harrison (Ex-president) seconded the resolution. He said that the history of the Company revealed its utility, for during the last few years they had been able to save several important properties in the Connexion.

The resolution was adopted.

#### GENERAL CHAPEL FUND REPORT.

We beg to forward to you our Annual Report and Balance Sheet. We are glad to note the steady and continuous improvement in the condition of our trust property generally. Not only is the character of the structures the Connexion is erecting much in advance of those built a quarter of a century ago, but a larger proportion of the cost is being raised; and hence cases of extreme embarrassment are much less frequent than formerly.

Our work has been of the ordinary character during the year. The grants we have been able to promise, though not large, have been helpful and stimulative. We have paid in grants towards debt reduction £461 5s. 3d., and towards new erections £170 17s. 6d., and our outstanding promises at date exceed £2,000. This amount may be claimed any time; but as we give three years during which to claim these grants, we are hopeful that we may be able to meet them as they become due.

Rev. John Welford moved that the report of the General Chapel Fund be received and adopted.

The Rev. Thomas Mitchell, in supporting this resolution, said that the aim of the fund was to help to reduce debts on their chapels, and to assist especially in the erection of new places.

Mr. W. P. Hartley asked if it would be possible to reduce the expenses of working this Committee, for he thought that £55 was too big.

Mr. W. Beckworth said that that was an old fund, but when he looked into the balance sheet he was led to think there was more cloth than wear, and he thought that the scope of the fund might be enlarged.

Rev. Joseph Johnson said that all the expenses named had not been incurred by the General Chapel Committee.

#### GENERAL CHAPEL FUND COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Rev. John Welford the following were appointed as the Committee:

Treasurer of Connexion Fund, J. Welford, W. P. Hartley, J.P., J. Pickett, W. Beckworth, J.P., R. Hind, J. Coward, J.P., G. Seaman, J. Ashton, J. H. Hemshall, P. Peacock, W. A. French, F. C. France, J. S. White, G. Morris, J. T. Barkby, S. Mincher, G. C. Normandale, T. Peatfield, J. Jenkins, J. Pinchen, W. Moore, P. Nume, W. Pigott, D.D., W. Younger, J. B. Buglass, F. E. Heape, S. Bryant, C. Shreeve, G. Litten, A. A. Birchenough, J. W. Everingham, J. Johnson (2), E. Jennings, G. Green, J.P., W. Glass, J. Brearley; T. Howdill, Treas-

urer; T. Mitchell, Secretary. To meet on September 14th, 1905, at Doncaster (Spring Gardens); on January 18th, 1906, at Hull (Hawthorne Avenue); and on May 10th, 1906, at York (Monkgate). To commence at 10.30 a.m.

On the motion of the Rev. John Welford, Mr. T. Howdill was appointed Treasurer, and Rev. T. Mitchell Secretary.

#### CHAPEL LOAN FUND REPORT.

We have pleasure in forwarding to you our Annual Report and Balance Sheet. Our work during the year has been one of the ordinary character. We have made loans to the extent of £2,600, and have had repaid £2,097 4s. 9d. We have also received a Bequest on Annuity of £700 from Mr. John Walker, of London. The Annuity will be at the rate of 3½ per cent. on the amount bequeathed, which amount has been lent to trustees at a small rate of interest. This fund continues to render excellent service to the trust property of our church. The present outstanding loans amount to £12,183 3s., and during the last eleven years over £16,000 have been paid off our trust debts through the agency of this fund; and in this way valuable service has been rendered to the interests of the church.

Rev. John Welford moved the adoption of the Report.

Rev. John Stephenson said that the fund was a most useful one, for they had made loans to the extent of £2,600, and have had repaid £2,097. He was sure that they could do still more useful work if the trustees would only pay more regularly and more steadily.

The report was seconded and adopted.

On the motion of Rev. John Welford, it was decided that the Committee be the same as the General Chapel Fund Committee, John Stephenson Treasurer, and T. Mitchell Secretary.

#### REPORT OF LEGAL DEFENCE FUND.

We beg to forward to you our Annual Report and Balance Sheet. We have had many applications for advice on legal points, and by the aid of the Connexion Solicitors have given the best advice and help in our power. Several cases of great importance are now in the hands of the Connexion Solicitors, and there seems every prospect that most effective service will be rendered to the trustees concerned through the assistance of this Fund. We are glad to note that the legal expenses during the year have been merely nominal, but these give no indication of the amount of work that has been done, as a considerable number of cases have been settled without legal procedure.

The Rev. John Welford moved the adoption of the Report.

The Rev. Thomas Mitchell, in pressing the claims of the fund, gave several instances of help that had been rendered.

The Vice-president (E. C. Rawlings) seconded the resolution.

The report was adopted and the Rev. T. Mitchell was appointed Secretary, and Mr. T. Howdill, Treasurer.

#### REPORT OF THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

The following report was adopted on the motion of the Rev. John Welford:—

The Committee have received and sanctioned several applications for assistance, both in the matter of new erections and the reduction of existing liabilities. In each case we believe that local activity has been stimulated, though the help we promise *pro rata* is necessarily small, because of our limited revenue.

Four grants promised to new erections have been claimed, the conditions having been met, and also six grants towards reduction of debt have been paid.

The 'Sites' Section of the Fund having been considerably benefited by a part legacy under the will of the late Rev. Jesse Ashworth, we have been able to assist in the acquisition of three valuable sites in the suburbs of the great metropolis, for which we are very grateful. The neighbourhood in each case is rapidly developing, and it has been a joy to the Committee to be able to render help in acquiring these sites.

The question securing sites in the new and promising suburbs of London has again seriously engaged the attention of the Committee, and it has been decided to form a 'Sites' Association Limited, the objects of which shall be to assist Stations to secure sites in new neighbourhoods, and hereby ensure a foothold for our church, as far as possible, in every new locality, and thus prevent ourselves from being excluded from eligible neighbourhoods where it would be possible for our church to become strong and influential.

The Rev. T. Mitchell said that no fund was yielding better results than the Church Extension Fund. They were obliged to limit their assistance to new cases. It was a distinctive part of their church work and he would like to risk his reputation on its success, the results of which are spiritual as well as material. It was one of God's agents. He would like to secure a larger measure of support from their church funds.

Mr. W. P. Hartley, J.P., was appointed Treasurer and Rev. T. Mitchell Secretary.

#### Foxhill Bank.

We have just celebrated the Sunday School anniversary at Foxhill Bank, and the effort has been most successful. The Rev. J. Dudley, of Liverpool, preached appropriate sermons morning and evening to large congregations. In the afternoon a musical service was splendidly rendered by the chapel choir under the leadership of Mr. P. H. Holmes, Mr. Moses Crankshaw presiding. There was a crowded attendance. Proceeds for the day £101. On the Monday evening the Rev. J. Dudley lectured to a good audience on 'John Knox and the Scottish Reformation.' Captain Harwood presided, and the Rev. Vaughan Thomas (Baptist), and Rev. A. G. A. Lees, took part in the meeting. Collections £5, bringing the total up to the grand sum of £106, which is several pounds in advance of last year.

#### Services Sunday, June 25th, 1905.

CIRCUIT.	CHAPEL.	MORNING. Usually 11 am.	EVENING. Usually 6.30 p.m.
HARROGATE.....	Dragon Parade		
MATLOCK.....	Matlock Bank..	Coun. J. Potter	Coun. J. Potter

#### MARRIAGES.

DENNIS—WHITEWAY.—June 14th, at Selby P.M. Chapel, by Revs. F. Winterburn and W. F. Clulow, William, third son of Mr. E. Dennis, of Hull, to Eleanor Calvin, only daughter of Rev. R. W. B. Whiteway, of Selby.



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**Anniversary Services.**  
On SATURDAY, 24th JUNE, 1905,  
The REV. THOMAS JACKSON (Superintendent of  
Whitechapel Mission, London) will give a LANTERN  
LECTURE (illustrated by specially prepared slides),  
entitled, "With the Outcasts of Whitechapel."  
Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock by COUN. CURRIE.  
On SUNDAY, 25th JULY, 1905.  
REV. THOMAS JACKSON will preach at 11 a.m. and  
8.30 p.m., and at 8.15 p.m. will deliver an Address, illus-  
trated with Lantern Views, entitled "Thirty Years in  
Darkest London, and what I have seen there."  
On MONDAY, 26th JULY, 1905,  
the ANNUAL SOIREE and PUBLIC MEETING  
will be held, when Addresses will be delivered by the  
Rev. J. Kelman, M.A., Rev. T. Jackson, Rev. D.  
Butler, M.A., Rev. S. Horton, Rev. Frank Jones,  
and others. Tickets, Sixpence each. Tea on the  
tables at 7.15. Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock. Collec-  
tion at all the Services and Meetings for Anniversary  
Funds. Special Singing by the Choir.  
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£3,724,148	£8,580,000	£1,860,776

### NOTE SPLENDID INVESTMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Dublin Corporation	67,926	0	0
Hanley Corporation	45,562	0	0
Manchester Corporation	20,000	0	0
Nelson Corporation	20,000	0	0
Birkenhead Corporation	15,000	0	0
Rothsay Corporation	14,166	0	0
Preston Corporation	10,000	0	0
Sunderland Corporation	10,000	0	0
Rochdale Corporation	10,000	0	0
Salford Corporation	10,000	0	0
Barrow-in-Furness Corporation	10,000	0	0
Barnsley Corporation	10,000	0	0
Warrington Corporation	8,800	0	0
Blackburn Corporation	5,840	0	0
Bolton Corporation	5,000	0	0
Leicester Corporation	5,000	0	0
Huddersfield Corporation	5,000	0	0
Sheffield Corporation	5,000	0	0
Leeds Corporation	5,000	0	0
Cromer Urban District Council	88,456	0	0
Kettering Urban District Council	61,060	0	0
Stretford Urban District Council	53,382	0	0
Ilfracombe Urban District Council	49,797	0	0
East Ham Urban District Council	26,063	0	0
Morecambe Urban District Council	17,835	0	0
Colwyn Bay Urban District Council	15,018	0	0
Ashton-on-Mersey Urban District Council	6,957	0	0
Bilston Urban District Council	6,507	0	0
Padiham Urban District Council	5,000	0	0
Urmston Urban District Council	4,942	0	0
Castleford Urban District Council	3,670	0	0
Whitworth Urban District Council	3,604	0	0
Wombwell Urban District Council	1,210	0	0
Barton-on-Irwell Rural District Council	852	0	0
Sheffield School Board	3,924	0	0
Llanedy School Board	1,970	0	0
Swansea Harbour Trust	81,000	0	0
Stirling County Council	37,207	0	0
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board	20,000	0	0
Widnes Local Board	5,000	0	0
Pontefract Union	1,707	0	0
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stock	1,233,990	0	0
Railway and other Stocks and Shares, Pref. and Ord.	122,931	0	0
Mortgages on Property within the United Kingdom	509,424	0	0
House Property and Land	239,561	0	0
Foreign Government Securities	189,706	0	0
Colonial Government Securities	83,506	0	0

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" 2	-	-	-	-	F. Royston
" 3	-	-	-	-	E. Leigh
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" 5	-	-	-	-	J. Toplis
" 6	-	-	-	-	G. B. Setchfield
" 7	-	-	-	-	W. Lee
" 8	-	-	-	-	A. Marsden
" 9	-	-	-	-	F. Shepherd
" 10	-	-	-	-	J. Trippett
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Rotherham	-	-	-	-	H. Bradshaw
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Hoyland	-	-	-	-	G. H. Hill
Hoyland Common	-	-	-	-	G. Adsetts
Wombwell	-	-	-	-	J. H. Wilson
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Boston	-	-	-	-	A. A. Driver
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Sleaford	-	-	-	-	G. Poole
Newark	-	-	-	-	F. Griffiths
Hucknall Torkard	-	-	-	-	G. Stone
Peterboro'	-	-	-	-	G. C. Coathupe
Louth	-	-	-	-	A. J. Cowling
Gainsboro'	-	-	-	-	T. Smith
Brigg	-	-	-	-	D. Brooksbank
Derby, North	-	-	-	-	W. H. Warner
Derby, South	-	-	-	-	R. Bryan
Derby, West	-	-	-	-	H. Green
Chesterfield	-	-	-	-	A. Adams
Ilkeston	-	-	-	-	J. Swift
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# CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

# Primitive Methodist Leader

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1905.

## THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE.

**MR. EDMUND CHARLES RAWLINGS.**

THE Vice-President is the son of the Manse, his father having been a devoted and highly-esteemed minister of our Church for over fifty years. He has remained loyal to our Church, for, as he told us in his brief acknowledgment of the honour done him by the Conference on Wednesday morning, he learned loyalty in his own home. This has meant a good deal for him, and for Primitive Methodism, especially in London, where the Vice-President has for some years given himself with much assiduity and devotion to the work of our Church. Born in 1854, Mr. Rawlings is in the prime of life, and with his ripened experience and apparently vigorous constitution should be able to render valuable service to the Church and the world for many years to come. He is no stranger in Conference, and as the Connexional legal adviser he has for some years occupied a prominent position among us. His services in that capacity have been recognised by special resolutions of Conference time after time in terms which indicated the high value set upon them by those intimately associated with in London. His religious, social, and philanthropic work is of a varied character.

In his own circuit Mr. Rawlings holds the offices of Circuit Steward and Sunday School Superintendent. He is also treasurer of the London Chapel and School Extension Fund, and held the office of President of the London Primitive Methodist Council. His District Meeting conferred on him the highest honour it is accustomed to pay to a Layman by electing him its Vice-President. But his activities extend to other departments of service. He has had a somewhat distinguished Municipal record, having served for nine years on the Hammersmith vestry; and on the creation of the Borough Council of London he was elected one of the first Councillors, and during his term of office filled the important post of Chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

It is not surprising that so ardent a Free Churchman should have early recognised the immense importance of the movement for the Federation of the Free Churches. He has been six times elected a member of the Executive of the National Free Church Council, in connection with which he has rendered distinguished service. He is the author of the 'Free Churchman's Legal Handbook,' and the 'Free Churchman's Guide to the Education Act of 1902,' works which have been of immense service in the critical times through which we have been passing, and have had a wide circulation. On the occasion of the King's coronation the Vice-President was one of a deputation of five appointed to present an address on behalf of the Free Church Council. As a politician, he has done much to hold aloft the flag of Liberalism during the miserable period of reaction through which we have been passing; and in places where Toryism has not only been rampant, but triumphant, this means a great deal. In such quarters the atmosphere is so hostile that even an ardent politician is apt to feel discouraged. But with men of grit and principle, like the Vice-President, such conditions only serve to put them on their mettle. To lead a forlorn hope seems to them infinitely better than tamely to acquiesce in the dominance of a reactionary party.

As a borough, Hammersmith is strongly Conservative. It is the boast of the party, in fact, that neither for Parliament, for County Council, nor for the Mayoralty, has anyone not of their own colour ever been elected. And yet Mr. Rawlings has had the pluck twice to con-

test the borough at a Parliamentary election. His courage and tenacity were rewarded by an opportunity for attempting a similar task elsewhere. To him that hath, more shall be given. The faithful discharge of duty brings larger opportunities for service. In the General Election of 1900, when the kakhi fever was at its height, Mr. Rawlings was asked to undertake a strategic operation in North Islington, by contesting the seat against Mr., now Sir George Bartley. The seat was hopeless, so far as Liberalism was concerned, but it was felt that it ought to be contested if only for the sake of keeping the militant Tories of the division from helping their party in West Islington. The strategy was successful, for not only did Mr. Rawlings secure a large number of votes, but West Islington was saved.

shaven save for the moustache. He is a fluent, ready speaker, and at times, when the subject or the occasion rouses him, he becomes remarkably forceful and eloquent. His accent is refined, and he has something of the House of Commons manner. Though not unduly fond of change, he is nevertheless a reformer. He will not cling to the old if he sees a prospect of replacing it with something better.

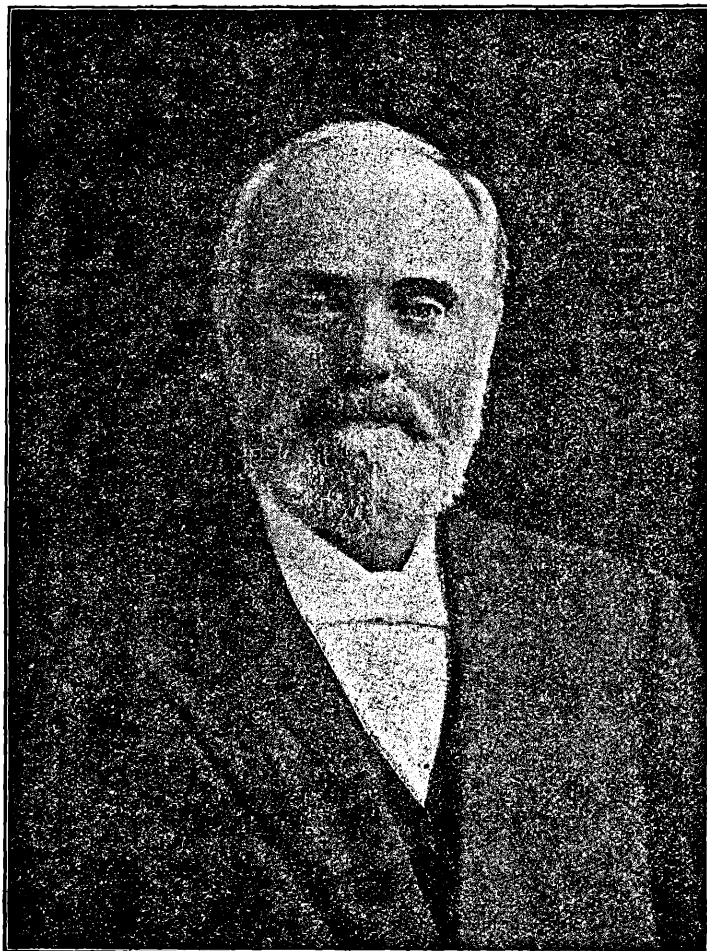
In Connexional affairs the Vice-President is ever on the look out for a chance of lifting things on to more modern lines. He is a valuable member of the Book Committee and has interested himself in our magazines and their get-up. Politically, as would be gathered from his Vice-Presidential address, he is in deep sympathy with the working classes. He is strongly of opinion that the churches must identify themselves with the claims of Labour, not merely as a matter of policy, but on the higher grounds of justice and equity and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Educational matters he is in hearty sympathy with the Passive Resistance movement, but is decidedly against merely secular education. He would not banish the Bible from the schools, in which he is probably voicing the feeling of the great majority of the Christian public of this country. In the coming year we anticipate the Vice-President will render valuable service to our churches. He may be trusted on all state occasions, so to speak, to maintain the dignity of the office he holds and worthily represent the church which has conferred him to one of its highest honours.

## CONFERENCE SECRETARY.

**REV. WILLIAM A. FRENCH.**

THE Conference Secretary this year hails from the North country, in which he has spent the whole of his ministry. Born in Bishop Auckland, in the County of Durham, in 1846, the Rev. William French has never been long away throughout his fifty-nine years from the colliery districts of the North. His ministry, indeed, has been spent mainly on the banks of the Tees and the Tyne. His school days were divided between Barnard Castle and Pease's West, near Crook, County Durham. His vocation from sixteen to twenty-one was that of a colliery mechanic. His conversion at sixteen years of age changed the current of his life, and gave such a direction to his thought and purpose as ultimately led him into the ministry of our Church. This event took place in the Billy Row Primitive Methodist Chapel, then, as now, associated with the Crook Circuit. He received his first class ticket from the late Rev. William Clementson, a minister of sterling character, fine spirit, and considerable pulpit gifts.

Mr. French became a local preacher when between eighteen and nineteen years of age, and in the Crook Circuit, which then comprised what are now the Bishop Auckland, Waterhouses, and Crook Stations, he had abundant scope for the exercise of his gifts. Much has been said in this Conference against pastorates and the fact that they deprive local preachers of the opportunity of exercising their ministry. This is undoubtedly true, and many a successful minister looks back with gratitude to the fact that in his early preaching days he was in a large circuit, where a couple of sermons would do duty at seven or eight places in the course of a quarter. In this way his gifts of speech found a chance of development without necessitating the preparation of a new sermon for every preaching appointment he undertook. The Crook Station possessed a large number of flourishing colliery societies, with an exceptionally fine



THE NEW BOOK STEWARD

REV. E. DALTON.

In regard to his work in connection with his own profession, little need be said. The Vice-President was educated privately at Winterbrook, and having duly passed the qualifying examination was admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court in 1879. Since then he has practised his profession at 2 Walbrook, in the City of London. He is a member of the firm of E. C. Rawlings and Butt, which enjoys a high reputation for conveyancing and commercial practice. It is an odd coincidence that the Conference which has honoured Mr. Rawlings by electing him to the Vice-Presidency should have made the father of his partner President. Thus the order is reversed. Instead of Rawlings and Butt, it becomes Butt and Rawlings. The Vice-President is about the middle height, and comfortably stout. The hair is dark, the features well cut, and the face clean

chapel at the head of the plan, and young local preachers with preaching gifts had no lack of exercise both for their legs and their power of speech.

In those days Mr. French was a very tall youth, standing over six feet in height, a trifle more when he chose to stretch himself to his full height—for even at that early period he showed a tendency to stoop, as if incommoded by his length of limb. Somewhat deliberate in his movements, and slow to catch fire in the pulpit, he yet revealed the possession of gifts which led the Quarterly Meeting to recommend him for the ministry when he had been a local preacher some eighteen months. He declined, however, and it was only when a year later the Quarterly Meeting a second time recommended him that he indicated his willingness to enter the ministry. At that time our students were being trained for the ministry at Elmfield College, and Mr. French was one of the last batch of students who had the privilege of attending that Institution, the Sunderland Institute becoming available the following year.

The Conference of 1868 stationed him at Lowick, in Northumberland. Subsequently he travelled in Maryport, Hexham, Shildon, Middlesbrough, South Shields, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staithes, Eston, Shildon, and Newcastle-on-Tyne Third. The Secretarial gifts which have received recognition this Conference have long been known in his native Districts of Sunderland and Newcastle and Stockton and Darlington. In the latter he held the post of Secretary of the Missionary Committee for five years, and was also Candidates' Examiner for the same period. He now holds the important office of Building Committee Secretary. The various duties of these offices he has found highly congenial, and the terrible drudgery of the Conference Journal will probably prove in his case a species of recreation, notwithstanding the fact that he playfully spoke of it on his appointment as 'a sentence of ten days' hard labour.'

As the Chief Secretary faces the Conference from the pulpit in which he and his assistant carry on their arduous avocation, he presents a somewhat striking figure. The face is exceptionally long, and the nose decidedly aquiline. Hair and beard are now white, the former swept backward and upward, the latter trimmed in the fashion of the time. The eyes have a slightly sleepy aspect, but will on occasion flash with something that indicates that it will not be safe to presume too much on this man with the meditative mien. The voice is good, though not of great carrying power, and the hearer gets the impression that if the speaker chose to exert himself he could make himself well heard in the largest building. He will make a careful, painstaking, methodical Secretary, and between them, he and his experienced assistant ought to turn out a model Conference Journal. It may not be absolutely accurate, but fortunately nobody has guaranteed that it will be so. Absolute accuracy in the matter of Conference Journals belongs to the realm of the ideal, something to be aimed at, but never realised. The Secretary has been trained in a school which, for a generation almost, has enjoyed a high reputation for thoroughness, and we have no doubt the reputation will in this case be amply sustained.

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS.

### Cardiff First.

ON Sunday the Sunday School anniversary was held at Severn Road, when the pulpit was occupied in the morning by Rev. J. T. Zeal, and in the evening by the Rev. H. Owen. The chapel was well filled. In the afternoon a musical service was held, when T. J. Lewis, Esq., presided. The choir and children were ably trained by Mr. A. Littlewood. The singing was assisted by a large orchestra. On the following Wednesday a tea was served, followed by a public meeting, presided over by C. F. Saunders, Esq. Addresses were given by Revs. H. Owen and J. W. Zeal. Altogether it was one of the best anniversaries ever held in connection with our Cardiff school.

### Market Rasen Circuit.

The first anniversary of Walesby Church was celebrated on Wednesday, June 7th, by holding a sale of work and a public tea and meeting. The sisters had worked vigorously and a good show of goods was made. Mr. C. K. Watkinson, of Grimsby, opened the sale, and with the Rev. J. Redhead and Rev. F. A. Young addressed the meeting in the evening, which was presided over by Mr. J. Brighton. The services were continued on the following Sunday Mr. T. Atkinson being the special preacher.

### Pickering.

A most successful two days' Bazaar was held at Kirbymoorside on June 7th and 8th. Owing to the Election in connection with the Whitby division, and the inconvenience of the time of year, which had to be decided upon, it was thought £100 might be raised. However, to the delight of all, the sum of £125 was realised. The following deserve special mention—Mr. W. Garbutt, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Donald, Mrs. Lax, Mr. S. H. Richardson, Mr. Geo. Hodgson, and a number of Christian Endeavourers. The sum of £120 will be invested in the Chapel Aid Association to accumulate at compound interest for the New Chapel to be built at Kirby in the future. The Young Men's Stall raised £31 14s. 3d.; Christian Endeavour Stall £26 16s. 8d.; Mr., Mrs. and Miss Donald's Stall £25; Goods sold privately £16 14s. 4d.; Refreshments (Mrs. Lax) £13; Mr. John Frank's donation £5; Mrs. Fentress' donation £2 2s. 0d.; Other items £4 13s. 5d.; Total £125 0s. 8d. Mr. John Frank and Mrs. G. Fentress opened the Bazaar on Wednesday and Thursday in most suitable terms.

## PICTURES IN CONFERENCE.

By Bothofus.

SCARBOROUGH once more, after the lapse of eighteen years! What memories the mention of the last Scarborough Conference calls up. In the personnel of the Conference immense changes have taken place in the interval. The great men of that day have nearly all passed away. John Atkinson was the retiring President, and among the leading figures were Dr. Samuel Antliff, James Macpherson, Joseph Wood, Joseph Toulson, Thomas Whittaker, Joseph Ferguson, Thomas Newell, Colin Campbell McKechnie, William Cutts, Robert Church, Thomas Whitehead, Joseph Odell, W. R. Widdowson, George Seaman, Hugh Gilmore, Edwin Dalton, and William Goodman. Among the laymen were John Coward, Thomas Robson, Samuel Plummer, Samuel Terry, Thomas Large, John Hood, John S. Parkman, Thomas Beeley, Joshua Rouse, Alderman Johnson, and W. P. Hartley. A good many of these have joined the great majority. Happily the President of the year, the Rev. Thomas Whitehead, and the Vice-President, Mr. John Coward, are both members of the present Conference; but they will look round on a very different assembly from that which they surveyed from the Chair eighteen years ago. Nearly all the 'fathers' of that day have gone, and a new generation of both leaders and of the rank and file have taken their place. Some of them may be looking down upon us this year, and they will know that we have not forgotten them.

THAT Scarborough Conference is memorable as being the last at which one of our greatest personalities was present. Among the scenes still lingering in the minds of many who attended that Conference was that in which the Rev. Colin Campbell McKechnie took farewell of the assembly in which he had been so prominent a figure for ten or eleven years. He had for eleven years edited the Connexional magazines, including the 'Review,' with remarkable distinction and ability. In the Conference itself he was a most impressive figure, with his fine presence, his dignified bearing, his flashing eye, and magnetic speech. For many years he had been admired and loved by his brethren in the North, and when he became a Connexional Officer he soon won the affection and admiration of his brethren throughout the Connexion. He swayed great influence in the Conference itself, and when he rose he always arrested attention, and commanded something more than a respectful hearing. He had become a part of the assembly, and it was difficult to imagine the Conference without him. Hence, when he rose to acknowledge the thanks of the Conference, which had been moved in a fine speech by Dr. Antliff, there was deep feeling throughout the assembly. He began by saying that what affected him most was the thought that that was probably the last time he would be associated with the Conference. Fifty-two years ago he had been converted under the labours of Primitive Methodist ministers in Scotland. He was then fourteen years of age, and forty-nine years had passed away since he became a travelling preacher. There was a passing reference to his active ministry, which many knew had been exceptionally brilliant and successful, especially in the conversion of souls; then he spoke of the distressing breakdown in his health, his partial recovery, and resumption of active service as Connexional Editor, and of the loyal help he had received during his long term of office.

REFERRING to his early life Mr. McKechnie made a statement which must have been a surprise to not a few of his hearers. He told us all the schooling he had was what he received between the years of seven and nine; all the rest of his education had been obtained as a travelling preacher. It had often been supposed that his intellectual eminence was due, in part at least, to superior scholastic advantages in Scotland. This evidently was an error. After these personal references the speaker turned to the Connexion and its future. He evidently felt that unusual difficulties loomed ahead. He had large hopes for the future of the Connexion, and some anxieties. His last message to his brethren he summed up in two words—'Labour' and 'Charity.' There had never been anything accomplished in the Connexion save by labour—hard, earnest, plodding labour—and nothing would be accomplished without it. That is as true to-day as it was eighteen years ago, and it will be found that the men who accomplish anything for Primitive Methodism are men who are prepared to give themselves to it in downright hard work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. His second word was Charity: he exhorted his brethren to love one another, to bear with one another, not to be angry with one another, for they would never get all persons to think as they thought. There were many moist eyes as the old man said good-by with choking voice, and vainly striving for self-command. 'O this Church—the Church of my boyhood—the Church of my manhood—the Church of my maturity and of my declining years—may God bless and greatly prosper!'

HUGH GILMORE was at that Conference, too, though not perhaps a delegate, describing its proceedings with his graphic, kindly, philosophic pen. One almost feels disposed at times to glance at that pew where sat the members of the fourth estate on the left side of the President, and among them 'Wandering Steenie,' surveying, from under his bushy eyebrows, and with his humorous quizzical expression, the doings of the Conference. He gave this scribe his first chance at sketching, that same Conference, by asking him to furnish a description of a couple of public meetings. The meetings were attended and duly described in perhaps a column and a half of matter, which appeared among the 'Notes of the Conference and its Proceedings by Alofus.' A commission from Delaine of the 'Times' would hardly have been counted a greater honour. Hugh Gilmore has long been sleeping under Southern skies, but his memory is still green, and the face and form of the large-hearted, genial Scotchman are remembered as if he had only left us yesterday.

A RECEPTION on the Tuesday evening is now quite a usual thing at Conference. The arrangement has several advantages, but specially serves as a convenient opportunity for the meeting of friends. You can come across more acquaintances in that way than in any other during the Conference. This year the Reception was given by the Member for Scarborough, Mr. J. Compton Rickett, a thorough going champion of the Free Churches. The building where the Reception took place is admirably suited for the purpose. The Grand Hotel is spacious and palatial in all its appointments. It was a brilliant assemblage that perambulated its fine staircase, the superb Entrance Hall, and Drawing-Room. One wonders what Hugh Bourne would have thought of it all. Our host gave us a genial welcome, and his references to ourselves were kindly and in good taste. The Government came in for a few hard knocks, and the Education Acts were referred to with appropriate derision. The President, Rev. Robert Harrison, Mr. George Green, the Vice-President, and the Rev. Tom Buttrick all discharged their duty with tact and grace and ability in acknowledging the kindness of our host, who has often preached in our chapels and has endeared himself to our people. A vocal quartette and a splendid string band discoursed beautiful music at intervals, and the sumptuous refreshments were well patronised during the evening. It was really a very fine affair. Scarborough has begun well.

So far as the weather was concerned the Conference opened on Wednesday morning under the most favourable auspices. The sun was shining and the sky bright. The air was delightfully balmy, and we felt that at Scarborough at any rate Summer had come at last. They have a saying in Scotland, 'Dinna cast a clout till May is oot,' but since the advent of June a good many have been disposed to think that June might well be substituted for May. When the retiring President was formally summoned to the chair there was a large gathering of delegates, and also a considerable assemblage of visitors. The opening hymn:

'I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,'

went with a magnificent swing. It was a joy to hear the fine roll of the bass in the last line. Then the President, who looks none the worse for his year's labours, read the twelfth chapter of Romans, and then called upon Mr. Thomas Lawrence and the Rev. John Hallam to lead us in prayer. These brethren passed the chair many years ago, and they are both well whitened with age, but there was no diminution of vigour in the tones of their voices, and Mr. Hallam especially is, in appearance, the pink of health. Their prayers voiced the feeling of joy and gratitude which fills the hearts of the delegates because of the wave of revival blessing that has been passing over the connexion during the last year, and the unusually large increase that is to be reported. As one of them said, 'The glory has not departed from us.'

Now we settle down to the business of constituting the Conference. Glancing round the fine church, one is struck with its spacious air, and its lightness and brightness. Although situated in a narrow back street the building has a fine imposing front, and the interior is admirable, considering that it is not exactly a modern structure. The circular gallery has a fine sweep, and the white metal work gives it an appearance at once of strength and lightness. The pews are circular, and have a gentle elevation. They may not give as much freedom to the limbs of the delegates as they could desire, and probably before the next ten days are over they will find themselves longing for an opportunity of stretching themselves. But then you cannot have everything, and we must console ourselves that we have the beauties of Scarborough in which to revel whenever the business will allow. The business of constituting the Conference has been got through while we have been surveying the chapel and congratulating ourselves over the weather. A few delegates are absent, notably the Rev. Robert Bryant, whose serious illness will prevent his attending at all. A special telegram of sympathy was ordered to be sent in his case, and the Rev. Thomas Mitchell will discharge the duties of the Connexional Fund treasurer. Mr. Mitchell must surely be the most versatile minister the connexion has ever elected to a Connexional office. There seems to be no office he cannot fill with ease and efficiency at a moment's notice, and no matter what officer is disabled the Financial Secretary is able to take his place.

THE Presidency this year was generally regarded as a foregone conclusion. Mr. Butt's claims were felt to be so unique and overwhelming that no other candidate would have the shadow of a chance. The Rev. James Pickett the General Missionary Secretary, made the nomination in a speech which set forth with great fulness the striking services Mr. Butt has rendered during the last seventeen years, and when he sat down it was felt the thing was virtually settled. Mr. W. M. Patterson nominated the Rev. Henry Yooll, whose claims were felt to be so strong that had Mr. Butt not been before the Conference there can be little doubt but that they would have been recognised. The Editor at once asked that his name should be withdrawn, as not only did he feel that he had no chance of election, but he was not able to see how it would be possible to combine the duties of the Presidency and those of the editorship. The Rev. George E. Butt was then unanimously elected President, and took his seat on the platform amid loud applause. His hair and venerable beard have become grey, otherwise he really bears comparatively few marks of the arduous service of the last seventeen years. Indeed, he looks a trifle less delicate than he did at the Reading Conference. In accordance with usage, he desired the retiring President to preside for the remainder of the morning session. For the Vice-Presidency we had only two nominations, Mr. E. C. Rawlings and Mr. Coucillor S. Hilton of Leicester. Both of these brethren have been nominated for the office before more than once, and last year they each gracefully retired in favour of Mr. George Green. After the remarkably effective speech made by Mr. Jennings in nominating Mr. Hilton, many thought,



the question was settled. Mr. Jennings had a good time, and his speech possessed that combination of seriousness and humour which so often carries a Conference election. But you must be careful to hit the line between them. If the humour is too rollicking it may prove fatal, as was illustrated at a later stage of the morning session. But when Rev. H. J. Pickett proceeded to present the case for Mr. Rawlings it was felt that it was a really strong one, and it became quite uncertain what would be the issue. In the event Mr. Rawlings was elected by a majority of twenty-three. He has fairly won the honour, and we doubt not he will be able to maintain the traditions and the dignity of the office. For the Secretaryship of the Conference we had four nominations. It was a close contest, and ultimately it lay between the Rev. W. A. French and Rev. Joseph Yearsley. Mr. French came out top at the last ballot, and Mr. Yearsley was appointed his assistant. As this is the second time Mr. Yearsley has occupied the position his secretarial apprenticeship ought to be complete after the present Conference. It is a very arduous post, with quite as much hard work as falls to the lot of the chief Secretary, and with only a fraction of the honour. In acknowledging the appointment Mr. French told us he had cudgelled his brain to find an excuse for withdrawing from the nomination, but failing, he submitted himself to the judgment of the court, and they had sentenced him to ten days' hard labour.

THERE was a large audience to witness the induction of the President on Wednesday afternoon. The church seemed to be filled in every part, and the ceremony was unusually interesting and impressive. The retiring President, in a few kindly and well chosen words, welcomed the President and handed over to him the Bible, hymn book, and chair, which constitute the insignia of office. The new President received a warm welcome, the audience standing. Then magnificent bouquets of flowers were presented to the President and Vice-President by Mrs. Gibson and Miss Winne Fell.

THE Presidential Address was in many ways unique. Delivered with great ease and naturalness, it seemed an entirely extempore utterance. Nobody could get the MS. of the Address, because it did not exist. It was beautifully conceived and went straight to the heart of the Conference. We realised many things as the address proceeded, and saw not a few mental pictures. We saw the President toiling away in far-off Aliwal North, and hearing with a smile of incredulity—that somebody was anxious on his return to England to elect him to the Presidency. We saw the boy-preacher dreaming dreams of some day being President of Conference, and then, when the serious work of the ministry began, the dream fading. We saw the President again managing a Conference of two or three hundred native Christians, and finding it, in consequence of their custom of only speaking to the question before the meeting, and when they had something to say, a comparatively easy thing. Yet again we saw the missionary on the most remote station of the Foreign field with a smile of joy on his face as he heard of the election to the Presidency of a brother missionary, in whose honour he felt honoured. The President told the Conference this was not the highest honour they had conferred upon him. He counted it a greater honour that for seventeen long years he had been placed in one of the highest places of the mission field, and had enjoyed the ever-growing confidence of the church. We were not surprised to hear him say that he intended to be a Missionary President; that he could not be anything else. At the same time every department of church work would have his care and interest. Missions were not merely on his brain, but in his heart. And then, with one of his rare smiles, the President announced that he would be a Passive Resister, and that his only difficulty would be to refrain from being an active resister. He hoped the collocation of the names of the President and Secretary would cause no confusion in the firm of which the Vice-President was the head. In that case it was Rawlings & Butt; in this Butt & Rawlings. The President closed with yet another picture, that of his father, on one occasion, when travelling in the early days of the connexion with the father of the Vice-President, finding a swollen brook athwart the path, and taking the Vice-President's father on his back and carrying him across. It was a memorable address, grave and gay, and with a fine blending of humour and pathos. With a Missionary President we ought to have a grand year in connection with the missionary cause.

MR. GEORGE GREEN, J.P., the retiring Vice-President, in a graceful and effective speech, congratulated his successor on his election, and vacated the vice-chair. The new Vice-President gave a stirring speech, in which he indicated certain questions on which, as a Church, we ought to take a decided stand. The indictment in Mr. Rattenbury's speech at the Free Church Council last year might be true of some churches, but it was not true of Primitive Methodism. Our founders were working men, and our Church had been built up and maintained by working men. The only aristocracy amongst us was that of brain. Labour, Temperance, and Education were the questions to which he made special reference. He hoped the Connexion would go against secular education and never consent to the banishment of the Bible from the schools. We could not help thinking that the Conference did not seem very sure on this point. It is a big question, and one on which many good men are considerably perplexed.

AFTER the Induction ceremony we had the thanks of the Conference, proposed in a series of speeches and resolutions, to retiring officers. The services of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary having been suitably acknowledged, those of the retiring Book Steward were dealt with. Mr. Bryant has always been recognised as an exceptionally strong man—physically, intellectually, and morally. There are few men in our ministry as widely read; and when he was suddenly stricken down with serious disablement it was felt that there was an element of unusual pathos in the situation. Last year the Conference marked its sense of his character and services by electing him to the treasurership of the Connexional Fund. Unhappily he has had another severe and dangerous seizure, and is in consequence unable to attend the Conference. His services as Book Steward during the last five years were suitably acknowledged, and the thanks of the Conference will be embodied in some permanent form and presented to him in London.

In granting the applications of some twenty-four ministers who have applied for superannuation, opportunity was given for some brief reference to the character and work of these aged brethren. It is most desirable that occasions of this kind should not be passed over in a merely formal manner. It transpired that in one case last year a minister who had spent more than forty years in our ministry, and had devoted himself most unreservedly to the work, was, in the most curt manner, informed that his application for superannuation was granted. This should not be, and we are glad that more care will be taken in matters of this kind. An application for superannuation may seem a very prosaic thing, but to the minister concerned it is a very different affair. The more truly he has been a minister of Jesus Christ the more reluctant will he be to lay aside his harness; and to make application for permission to do this will be a thing into which no small measure of the tragic element will enter. Several of these aged brethren have travelled over forty years, and one, the Rev. Enoch Ball, has completed an active ministry of no common usefulness and success of forty-seven years: while two, the Rev. George Seaman and the Rev. George Hull, have each completed forty-five years. Several of the superannuating brethren have rendered distinguished service, and it was fitting as they retire from the field of active toil some word of recognition should be spoken. May their years of superannuation be a time of mellowing experience and ripening character, a quiet even-tide after a day of glorious toil.

THE HARTLEY LECTURE was delivered in the Jubilee Church by the Rev. Thomas Mitchell. The attendance was not so large as we should have liked to have seen. No doubt the beauties and breezes of Scarborough had much to do with that. After a hot day in Conference the sands and Spa constituted an overwhelming attraction. The Jubilee Church is a very pretty building inside. The gallery is octagonal, which seems to be the dominant note in the design throughout. There is a very fine pannelled ceiling of wood, and the beautiful white and gold of the general scheme of decoration give the Church a chaste and bright appearance.

The Chairman appointed was Mr. W. P. Hartley, and it was a matter of general regret that the state of his health had detained him. The subject would have appealed very specially to him, as it has been with him one of life-long study and practice. The Vice-Chairman, Mr. George Green, too, was unable to be present, having been summoned to London on important business. The Vice-President of the Conference took the chair, while Mr. Leece, of Manchester, consented to occupy the vice-chair. Mr. Rawlings in a few appropriate words introduced the lecturer, and although the vice-chairman was called upon, he contented himself with saying that he would simply say ditto to the chairman. The subject of the lecture was 'Christian Beneficence: its Special Reference to Systematic Giving.'

A report of the lecture has already appeared in our columns, and the volume on which the lecture was based will, it is hoped, be procured and read by all who peruse these sketches. It is not necessary therefore to say anything as to the treatment of the question. It was certainly the finest presentation of the subject we have ever heard or read. The lecturer had evidently prepared a lecture after writing his book. This should always be done if these lectures are to command an audience. The book is for reading; the lecture is to be heard, and should, as far as the subject will allow, be a popular deliverance.

We had presented to us on Wednesday night an outline of the subject, striking in its clearness and naturalness, and the whole was lit up with anecdote and illustration in the most interesting way. Although the lecture lasted fully an hour and a quarter the interest never flagged, and the whole must have produced a deep impression on the audience. If only our own people would adopt the principle of giving, so reasonably set forth by the lecture, it would revolutionise our financial position in twelve months. The sale of the Hartley Lecture has been anything but satisfactory hitherto. It is to be hoped the lecture this year will prove an exception. If the members of our churches and congregations would buy and read the book, it would be an unspeakable boon to our Church and the Kingdom of God.

We admired the ease with which the lecturer delivered himself, the masterly grasp of the whole question he evidenced, the clearness and modulation of his voice, and the eloquence and fire with which he spoke; but we are bound to say that the moral impression the lecture left on the mind was the finest thing about it. And this was due, not least to the personal element in the lecture. Mr. Mitchell gave us not only precept, but example. During his probation, when his salary was £36 a year, he attended a meeting and heard speeches devoted to this subject, and forthwith decided to give one-tenth of his income to religious purposes. This decision he had carried out ever since. What better could be said to each reader in view of such an example than this, 'Go thou and do likewise.' But first of all we say, 'Get the book and read it.' An excellent story furnished a refrain which ever and anon occurred throughout the lecture.

A certain Professor having written a volume on the Epistle to the Romans, was in the habit, when lecturing to his students, to say in regard to any point on which they desired more light, 'See my Romans.' The Romans in this case is the Hartley Lecture for 1905. It only needs to be added that the Conference must heartily thank the lecturer for his able and effective deliverance.

REFERENCE was made in the 'Table Talk' column of our last week's issue to Mr. Charles M. Luke, the delegate from New Zealand. He must have been greatly gratified with the reception that was accorded him in the Conference by his brother delegates. As he was in duty bound, the General Committee Secretary had to point out that the appointment this year to elect a ministerial delegate, and Mr. Luke is a layman. But the Conference, careful ever to punctiliousness on most matters, was in this instance inclined to wink at the irregularity. Mr. Thomas Lawrence evidently expressed the mind of the whole of the delegates when he said that it would be found desirable to allow the New Zealand District a little more freedom in these matters than could be granted to the Home Districts. New Zealand was a rather distant corner of the planet, the travelling expenses of a delegate would be more

than the District would feel inclined to pay, and it would be found a very convenient thing, when an honoured layman was about to visit England on other business, and was prepared to pay his own expenses, to appoint him as the delegate to Conference, even though, according to previous arrangement, a minister should have been appointed. This was evidently the unanimous opinion of the assembly.

LOUD and hearty cheers greeted Mr. Luke when he came to the Conference platform to thank the delegates. He is a man of striking and impressive appearance, and wears a long, flowing, heavy beard. He is certainly also a fine speaker, as he proved before he had been addressing the assembly very long. And he has a real grip of the deeper and more fundamental things, as could be plainly seen when he spoke of his conceptions of the church and the ministry, all of which he said he had derived from the Primitive Methodist church and the Primitive Methodist ministry. When anyone talks in this manner we know that he is not a Primitive Methodist merely by the accidents of birth and training, and association, but also by the deepest personal convictions. And this statement naturally suggests some reflections on the Primitive Methodist church in New Zealand. There has been a union of Methodist churches there, but a small band of Primitive Methodists have stood out against union and remained as they were. Much as the present writer is in favour of union at home and abroad, it is not to be gainsaid that if men can only in this way realise their ideas of such important matters as the church and the ministry, they are fully justified in maintaining the separate existence of their own body. It is only when something less fundamental is involved that blame can be attached to them. Mr. Luke spoke of the New Zealand churches being a mere 'fragment' of our great denomination. It is unquestionably a small District, but as long as it remains with us its claims will be recognised to the full, and they will receive all the more serious attention because the membership is small.

NOT often in the history of our church has it happened that two such striking names have been submitted to the Conference applying for one year's rest as was the case this year when the General Committee Secretary read the names of the Rev. B. Senior and the Rev. James Travis. Comparatively, Mr. Senior is a young man, although the number of years he has travelled reaches well into the thirties. But then we now expect our men to be in the active work of the ministry well nigh fifty years. Mr. Senior has rendered yeoman service. His name will always be associated with the New Surrey Chapel, and since he left that famous centre of religious work he has shown an ability almost reaching to genius in dealing with difficult financial problems. His friends, and many who only know him by repute, but who are interested in the church, at Higher Ardwick, Manchester, could have wished for nothing better than that he should have put the crown on a useful career by clearing off the debt of that church. Such a consummation would have afforded the greatest joy to Mr. Senior himself. But it was not to be, Mr. Senior's nervous system is greatly shaken, and he needs absolute rest for the present. But we are hopeful that his work is not by any means done yet.

THE case of Mr. Travis is wholly different. 'Men may come, and men may go, but he goes on for ever.' Not only one of the ablest, but one of the hardest workers with which our Church has ever been blest, he is still to Primitive Methodism what Mr. Gladstone was to England for so long—our Grand Old Man—one who carries about with him a ripe experience, with the most healthy ideas and hopes, a strong and healthy body, and a mind perfectly clear and vigorous. He needs the help of a young man, but he is still a Circuit Minister. May he be long spared to us.

IT is too early yet to offer any word regarding what will be the result of this Conference in the matter of work done, but on this the second day, it impresses one as a very business-like assembly. It is keeping to the Conference Agenda, and making not wholly unsuccessful attempts to finish the day's work apportioned within the specified time, and so it happens that already the Vice to the new Book Steward has been appointed. The Conference is evidently resolved to have short speeches, especially when these particular appointments are being made. Yesterday five minutes' speeches were allowed; to-day, in nominating men for the various offices, by a most decisive vote it was resolved that two minutes only be allowed to explain the special fitness of the nominees for the vacant position; and when at length the work of appointing the Christian Endeavour Secretary was reached, the time was curtailed to one minute. This strikes one as carrying a virtue to an extreme, and turning speech-making into a mere pretence, for after all, in an important appointment how can any one be expected to do justice to the person nominated if he has sixty seconds only in which to do it?

LET it be at once admitted, however, that the speakers displayed very considerable skill in making use of the time they had. Some of the speeches were very clever—one of them appeared rather too clever. After referring to the physical breakdown of several Connexional Officers, the speaker expressed the hope that none of the very fine men who had been nominated before he rose would be put into the vacant position, lest there should be another disaster of the sort. But he seemed quite willing to risk the health and life of the excellent man—his friend, too—whom he was nominating. How true it is that the outsider sees the most of the game.

A VERY excellent list of names for vice to the Book Steward had been sent up, though there were three or four in the list which impressed one as being scarcely of the sort to make good Connexional Officers of. Still, when these were deleted, there were left a number at once so large and so able that the delegates must have felt a considerable amount of embarrassment in casting their votes. This, however, was notable from the first ballot, that Rev. W. A. Hammond and Rev. Joseph Johnson were the favourites. Eventually, the former was appointed. This will be a matter of satisfaction to his many friends, and there is little doubt that he will fill the post efficiently. For a

long period he has held a prominent position in the denomination, and there is no minister in the eastern counties more highly esteemed. A hard worker, a prudent statesman, and a good business man, he has become recognised as one of those who can do almost any kind of work in a creditable manner.

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A DIFFICULTY has arisen regarding the appointment of a Vice to the Deputy Missionary Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Nominations for the vacancy had been sent up from several of the Districts, and it was expected by most of the delegates that an appointment would be made in the ordinary way; but it was pointed out that at the present time there was no provision for the salary of this officer out of the missionary funds, his salary having been paid out of the Church Extension Fund. Various suggestions were made to meet the difficulty, and it was gratifying to note the intelligence that at once enabled the delegates to apprehend the situation, and the sweet reasonableness that made them anxious to adopt the best course that was suggested in the circumstances. In the end it was decided that the whole matter be referred to the General Committee to prepare legislation upon it, and that the legislation be forwarded to the District Meetings for their consideration.

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THE ladies are making themselves felt in this Conference. During this single morning session three of them have taken some part in the proceedings, and one of them made a considerable speech, a speech that was pleasing in its manner and pointed in matter. Although there have been lady delegates at one or two preceding Conferences, we believe that there have never been five until this year. This, however, is not the only striking feature that has been manifest thus early. T. R. Watkinson, Esq., was nominated for the office of C.E. Secretary. It is something new to have a layman's name in the list of nominations for a secretaryship. Mr. Watkinson is well known as a successful worker amongst young people. Not only is it highly creditable to him that he has been thought

of thoroughly capable men, but the Conference has managed to place its hand upon a man with special fitness for the office. Mr. Spedding is an able speaker, with a gift of oratory. He possesses also a certain gift of style as a writer, and both on the platform and by his pen will be able to help the young life in our church towards a fuller development of their powers and the attainment of higher usefulness. In acknowledging the vote of the Conference he paid a graceful tribute to the retiring Secretary, the Rev. George Bennett, who had had so much to do with the moulding of the present Endeavour organisation, and had so greatly adorned the office he had held. We heartily congratulate Mr. Spedding on his appointment, and anticipate he will do much to develop in our youth a robust type of religious life.

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THE public meeting at Jubilee Church was fairly well attended, and the meeting was a most successful one. The chairman, Mr. Elijah Jennings, opened with a good rousing speech of great abandon and earnestness. He is in deepest sympathy with the young life of our churches, and urged his hearers to throw their energies into this department of Christian service as one that would in the long run bring the largest return and the richest joy. The Vice-chairman, Mr. W. C. Barker, is a young man, with a good head on his shoulders, and a gift of modesty which constrained him to content himself with a speech of the utmost brevity, but of manifest sincerity. The first speaker was the Rev. J. W. Venables, of the Lynn and Cambridge District. He is a capital speaker, and his address was very effective. His thesis was that Christianity has conferred greater benefits on the race than anything else. This he illustrated by a great wealth of historical illustration, which was presented with considerable freshness and some telling-word portraiture. Mr. Venables is decidedly an optimist; he finds even official meetings a means of grace, and we shall be surprised if he is not heard of again at Conference. Mr. Councillor J. Wood followed with an earnest and effective address, in which he sought to ascertain how we might make

the evils of the world. Mr. W. M. Patterson reached a very high level of eloquent address in urging that Christian men should 'look up,'—that is, keep their eyes directed towards the things that are exalted and inspiring, and give little heed to those that might tend to create feelings of despondency. It was pleasing to hear a man, no longer by any means young, giving out a message so healthy and optimistic with so much assurance and earnestness.

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THE last speech, by the Rev. F. Jeffs, was in all respects a most remarkable and impressive deliverance. It was at once thoughtful, fresh, and clearly expressed. In addition it revealed the observant eye that does not overlook the tendencies of the age, and the philosophic judgment that appraises what it sees at its true value, clearly marking off what is transient from what is permanent. There was a modulation of speech, too, and a restraint in the tone of the voice that were far more convincing than the finest rhetorical phrasing. As far as the Primitive Methodism of this age is concerned it was clear that the speaker had gauged it accurately, and he saw in it every reason for encouragement for the future as he thought of the magnificent heritage into which we had entered. Only very briefly, and without giving any figures, did the speaker refer to the vast improvement that had taken place in the value of our temporalities. But in this machinery he recognised valuable working capital. More remarkable was the heritage of social regard we had won. The contempt with which our church had formerly been regarded had now passed away, and it was freely admitted that as an established agency for the social and moral improvement of the people we were worthy of respect. Further, we had the results of generations of experience in successful Christian Endeavour. We knew where our fathers had prospered and could see where they had failed, and the reasons of their failure; and our discovery of the secret of their success warranted the hope that in the future we might rank with the most capable experts in evangelistic work. Again, it was a notable fact that whilst in spirit our church was democratic, it had been saved from the divisions and the mere sectionalism that had always been the weakness of democracies. And last of all, we had the abiding inspiration supplied by the heroic element in our history. It was a great, original, and eminently practical speech.

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FRATERNAL greetings were received from the Methodist New Connexion, now holding its sessions in Leeds. Yesterday (Thursday) was a historic day in the annals of our sister church by reason of the great debate and the vote taken on the invitation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church to enter into negotiations with a view to a union between the two denominations. The invitation was declined by 138 votes to 32. Readers of these notes will recall the circumstances that led to a consideration of the question. Long before the three bodies, New Connexion, Bible Christian, and United Methodist Free Church, had entered into negotiation for a union, and in the midst of these negotiations the Wesleyan Conference passed a resolution to ask the New Connexion to join them (the Wesleyans). Look at this action from any side possible, it is of the sort that cannot be described in polite language. We will not attempt to describe it, but merely say that had the Wesleyan proposal been entertained it would have meant the ruin of the cause of union with the other bodies; and on the part of the New Connexion, had the Union with the Wesleyans been effected, it would have meant the sacrifice of all the special principles for which the denomination stands. We therefore rejoice greatly in the decision of the New Connexion Conference.

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Two considerable debates have taken place this morning, and both of them have revealed a capability in dialectics to which we have not been too much accustomed at our Conferences in recent years. Perhaps the questions under consideration were not sufficiently large to constitute the discussions 'full-dress debates,' but the speeches were all that could be desired on both sides, and in both the discussions, whilst the actual decision arrived at was what would be expected by most who were present, the practical unanimity of the Conference, considering all that had been said on the other side, and the manner in which this had been received, was a little surprising. For in both instances the majority was overwhelming.

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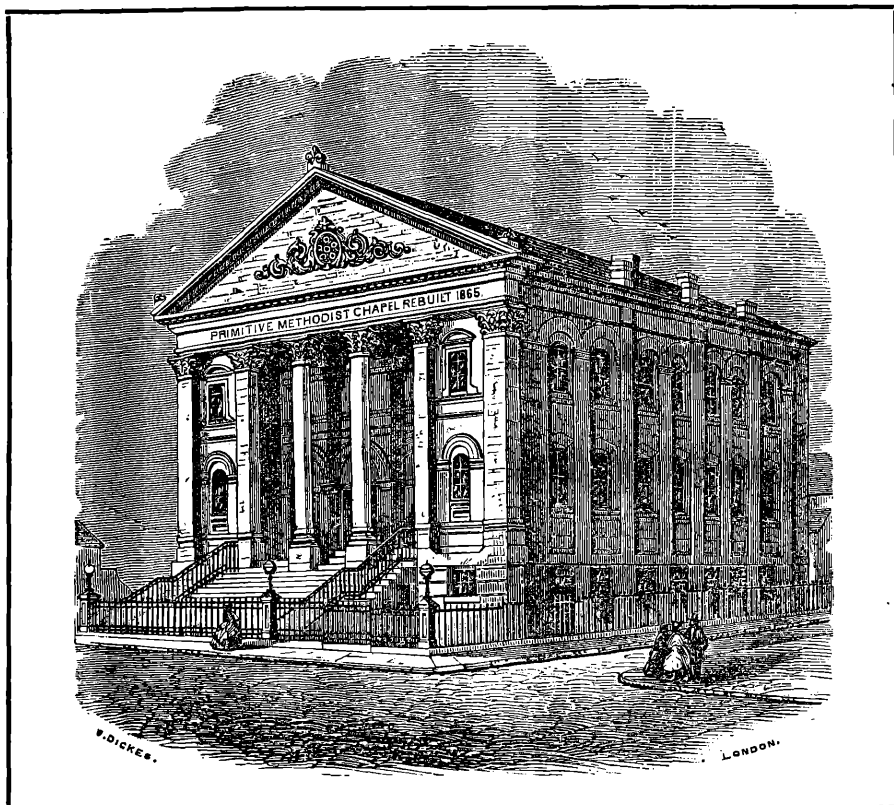
THE first of the two discussions had reference to the proposed division of the Motcomb Circuit, with three ministers, into three circuits, with one minister each. The proposal was opposed by such trusted leaders and veterans as the Rev. W. Cutts and Mr. H. Adams, by Rev. Thomas Jackson; and the Stationing Committee by almost a unanimous vote had decided against the division. We thought the reasons given by Mr. Adams against division were singularly acute and sagacious. On the other hand, there were men who knew the ground well, Rev. W. L. Taylor, Rev. A. Calvert, and the President, whose native circuit it is, strongly in favour of granting the Circuit's request, and allowing the division to take place. And divided it was. All the same, it is certain that the discussion will have done good if it checks the tendency to division and sub-division to any degree.

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FOLLOWING this was the question of appointing the Rev. James Flanagan to a suitable sphere of work. For three years he has been engaged, as is well known, in raising £3,500 required with which to purchase the freehold of the site on which St. George's Hall stands. This work is just about accomplished, and the Missionary Committee proposed to engage him as a Connexional Nvangelist one half of his time, and the other half as a Home Missionary Advocate, taking work as a deputation at missionary meetings in much the same way as missionaries who have returned from the foreign field do. They would have been pleased to employ him entirely as a Connexional Evangelist, but he is of the opinion himself that his health will not bear the strain.

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As soon as the proposal was made it became evident that the St. George's Hall friends were still anxious to keep him there, and were prepared to make a last desperate effort to carry their point. And they presented their case with great ability, as will be understood when it is stated that the advo-



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of for the position, and been recommended by the vote of his District Meeting, but that knowing this, he has allowed his name to be sent forward to Conference. He is not without knowledge of the work involved, and we are glad that a busy man is willing to make the necessary sacrifice.

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WE have had the usual debate in regard to the division of circuits. A delegate set the ball rolling by denouncing the making of pastorates in unmeasured terms. The outcry which followed his strong language only drew forth an expression of regret that he could think of no stronger word. His great objection against small circuits was that they deprived the local preachers of all employment. Mr. Thomas Lawrence followed with a weighty, if slightly irrelevant, disquisition on the fact that the ministry was not a profession, but a calling. He pointed out that the ministers came from the ranks of the local preachers, and were a case of the survival of the fittest. It was, however, relevant to the subject to point out that any limitation of the sphere of the local preacher would imperil the quality of the ministry. The Conference was recalled to the case before it by speeches from the General Missionary Secretary, and the ex-President, the one arguing for the division on the merits of the case, the other against it. Finally, the Conference decided to sanction the application for division. It is sometimes a little difficult to get at all the facts of the case where permission is being sought for the making of a new circuit. They may be in the documents, or they may not. Very often old circuit feuds are at the bottom of the whole business, and incompatibility of temper renders it necessary to cut the knot, and let the discontented parties set up for themselves. Unfortunately, it too often happens that the rosy prospects on which the case for division were based prove fallacious, and the feeble circuit becomes a source of weakness to the District, and a drain upon the Sustentation Fund.

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THE ballot for appointment of the Secretary of the Christian Endeavour resulted in the election of the Rev. William Spedding. The list of candidates contained an unusual number

our religious worship more successful, especially in regard to the masses outside. We should imagine Mr. Wood will be a valuable official in a circuit, a loyal friend and supporter of the ministers, and devoted heart and soul to the service of his fellows. He made some excellent suggestions, which were much appreciated by the audience. The last speaker was the Rev. George Armstrong, of Gateshead. He switched the meeting at once on to a new line by an allusion to the Army Stores scandal. For a few minutes the audience did not seem able to make up its mind how to regard the new departure. But the more intelligent, especially, soon discovered they were in for a treat, and for half an hour they had a high time. The speech was a tremendous indictment of the immoral and reactionary movement of the last ten years, and especially of the Government which is so largely responsible for it all. The speaker did not mince matters, and poured scorn on the people who deprecated the discussion of these questions as political. It was a masterly address, full of fine rhetorical phrasing, withering invective, and moral fervour. It was an absolutely fearless deliverance, and rang from end to end with a note of profound conviction. Whether there were any Tories or Unionists present we do not know, but there was not a word of dissent from first to last. Mr. Armstrong is lost in amazement that any man of any party can for one moment sanction the immoral and tyrannical policy which has disgraced the country and injured its highest interests. We confess to the same feeling, and yet we have known good men who could do that. Nothing could be more astounding.

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AT St. John's Road the public meeting held the same evening was also eminently successful. The chairman, Mr. J. Adams, and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. Bird, are evidently men of ability and business tact, who have some idea about values. They showed great dispatch in the conduct of the meeting. Both of them made brief but useful contributions in their speeches to the success of the meeting. Rev. J. S. Nightingale also greatly impressed the audience by his earnest and eloquent appeal that the church might become more practical in its application of gospel truth to human needs, and might have a more heroic spirit in the war it was waging against



cates for St. George's Hall were Mr. Thomas Robinson, of Cleethorpes, Mr. Gledhill, and Rev. Joseph Johnson. No one could have desired to listen to abler advocacy, and if these gentlemen failed to carry the Conference with them it was not because of lack of skill and zeal on their part. Their proposal was to keep up Mr. Flanagan's connection with St. George's Hall, allow him to preach there six or seven weeks per quarter, and devote the remainder of his time in preaching and addressing meetings in various parts of the connexion.

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BUT there was no lack of ability on the other side. One of the finest speeches in favour of the proposal of the missionary executive was that of the Rev. J. Dodd Jackson. He is a beautiful speaker, on the whole we should say the most polished debater in the Conference. And he had a substantial argument to offer. It was to the effect that the proposal of the Missionary Committee, if carried, would be of advantage to the whole connexion; if the wishes of the St. George's Hall friends were granted, Mr. Flanagan's sphere of service would be distinctly limited. No one could fail to see the force of this argument as it was presented by Mr. Jackson. The Rev. W. Younger, who is probably the youngest delegate in the Conference, also urged a powerful plea. He argued that one of the chief needs of our church was the creation of the evangelistic temper and atmosphere, and he knew of nothing better calculated to produce this result than allowing Mr. Flanagan to go up and down the country among our people. The plea revealed far-sightedness and wideness of outlook.

The Rev. James Pickett had the privilege of winding up the debate and he took advantage of his opportunity to the full. As every one knows, amongst his other special gifts he has that of the debator. We have heard him do well often in Conference and Committee; we have never heard him to quite so much advantage as in this instance. As is well known, in a deliberative assembly a speech may be eloquent, finely reasoned, impressive, in short, everything that could be desired as a speech, and be of no value as far as winning votes is concerned. There is no doubt Mr. Pickett's speech won votes, and many of them. To indicate all its striking features would take up too much space, but one of them was the sagacious, not to say sly manner in which he lessened the confidence of the delegates in the value of the presentation of the case that had been given by the St. George's Hall friends. He did not say so, but he certainly suggested, 'How can you have confidence in the judgement of men who have been guilty of such an indiscretion as to allow a fact to emerge which should have never been divulged?' and there was a mercilessness in some of his satire that was not without its effect. In the end there was a mere handful to vote against the Missionary's Committee's proposal. But the debate was one to remember, conducted ably and with all courtesy on both sides; and no bad feeling remained after it was over. It was pleasing to hear Mr. Johnson say after the vote that they accepted the decision of the Conference as the will of Providence.

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A SPECIAL resolution was passed recognising the work of the Rev. William Bowe, who has been superannuated this year. Only those intimately acquainted with him have any idea of Mr. Bowe's ability. He has not been blessed with what is known as a 'Conference voice,' and for other reasons has not become so widely known as his gifts have merited. He is an ideal secretary and administrator, and is one of perhaps half-a-dozen men who know our constitution and rules better than any of their brethren. He is also widely read in the best literature, English and German. He has been secretary of the Students' Examining Committee for a great number of years. In the districts in which he has travelled, Sunderland and Newcastle, Darlington and Stockton, and Liverpool, he has always been regarded as one of their wisest counsellors. We trust that he may have a long and peaceful eventide of life.

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ON Friday afternoon the question of setting apart the Rev. Joseph Odell for the work of Connexional Evangelism was before the Conference. Mr. W. Beckworth, in supporting the proposal, said that the two evangelists at present engaged in the work were quite unable to meet the demand for their services. One of them would have 150 applications in the course of a year, only 18 of which could be granted. The proposal was unanimously agreed to. We are at last learning how best to utilise the gifts of a few men whom God has given to our Church. They have rendered splendid service in other spheres of Connexional work, but we should have been able to garner infinitely larger results if, a dozen years ago, we had set them to the special work for which Providence equipped them. That Mr. Odell at his time of life should be able and willing to undertake such arduous work is an evidence at once of his extraordinary physical and mental vigour, and his splendid loyalty to our church.

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WE had an amusing episode in connection with a proposal which came from the Probationers' Examining Committee. It seems that for various reasons it is desirable that some distinction should be made in the Conference Minutes between the probationers who have been to the College and those who have gone straight into the ministry without any College training. Their probationary studies are different, and difficulty and confusion have arisen from the lack of any clear distinction between the two. But the Conference quickly scented, or believed it scented, in this innocent proposal something that would place a brand of inferiority upon the non-College probationers. One speaker claimed for them superiority of mental power, and another evidently thought it would be a misfortune for the College men to be too openly labelled as such. The Conference was on the war-path at once. In vain the able and amiable Secretary pointed out that the distinction would only be detected by the initiated, that there would not be two separate lists, but that the one class would follow the other. Prejudice had completely got the upper hand, and when the vote was taken scarcely a hand went up in favour of the proposal. And so once more a gust of emotion or sentiment or prejudice carried every thing before it. Last year it was decided that postcards should be sent to the probationers informing them of the result of the examination. It has been found that this entails much extra work upon the Secretary at a time when the pressure is quiet great enough, and as a rule the results are published in the Connexional papers the very next day. It was decided, in harmony with the recommen-

dation of the Committee to discontinue the arrangement. In future care will be taken to have the results published in the Connexional papers at once, and, added the speaker naively, this can be guaranteed especially since we have now the 'Primitive Methodist Leader.' It was evident the little joke was not quite appreciated by everybody. In view of the College extension a Committee was appointed to overhaul the studies of the probationers. What innumerable overhauls we have had during the last thirty years. We suppose the overhauling is necessary in the present instance. Let us hope the Committee will reach something that will be final for the next ten years at any rate. A more serious task was assigned another Committee, which will have to consider the whole question of the maintenance of the College under the new regime when the students will stay three years. Where the money is to come from is a problem which it is to be hoped the wit of the Committee will be able to solve without resorting to anything revolutionary.

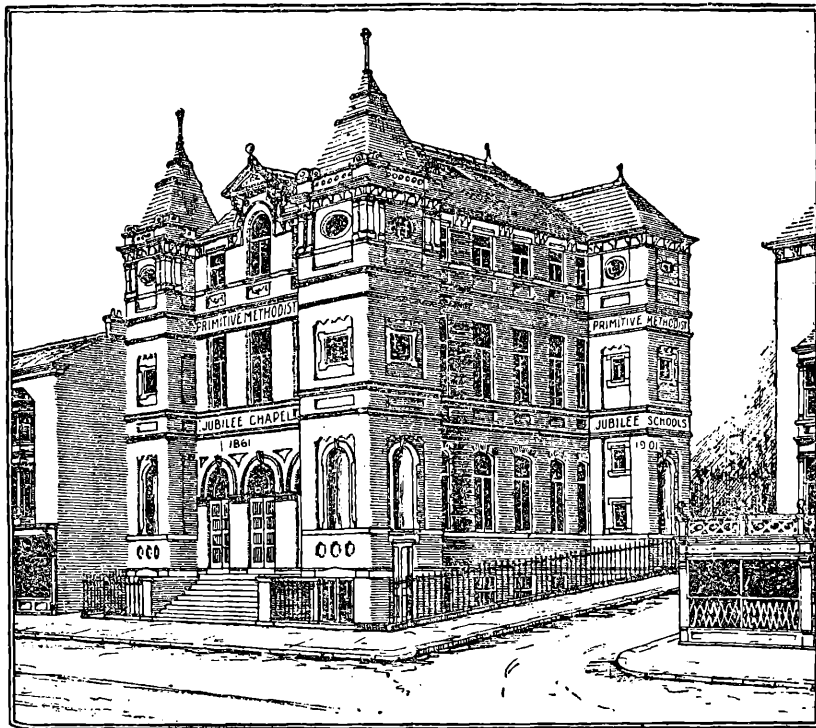
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THIS question came up in connection with the consideration of the College Report, which was spoken to by the Principal, the Rev. William Johnson. It seems that in addition to the increased cost involved in the maintenance of the students there is an additional ground rent of £150 a year. Mr. Beckworth spoke in glowing terms of the College, and said when the additions were completed it would be the most complete Institution of the kind in the country. He referred in grateful and eulogistic terms to the time and thought Mr. W. P. Hartley was devoting to the details of the enlargement, and his anxiety to make the College as complete as possible. It was Mr. Beckworth's feeling that Mr. Hartley's name should be permanently associated with the College by calling it the Hartley College, and he hoped the matter would be arranged by the Committee during the year. Mr. Johnson had spoken of the importance of sending men to the College of the right stamp, quoting the saying of an American that Colleges could not make fools, they only developed them. It was regrettable to learn, from the testimony of Professor Peake, that the men who came up to the College now were not as well versed in the Bible as they were a few years ago. Mr. Beckworth

there must be real Christian character. Above all, was required the baptism of the Holy Ghost. A healthy, helpful address, lit up with numerous illustrations. The last speaker was the Rev. A. Beavan, who may always be relied on to contribute a thoughtful address, expressed in chaste terms and suffused with a fine spirituality. His topic was, 'The importance of the Devotional life,' and he held that the aim should be neither to institutionalise nor socialise the Church, but to spiritualise it. By reverence, meditation, the study of the Scriptures, and prayer the devotional spirit could be cultured and developed. An able address, forcefully delivered, and greatly enjoyed.

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ON Friday we had an evening session for the Reception of Deputations. There was a large attendance, the building being nearly filled. In a few well chosen words the Rev. Henry Carden introduced a deputation representing all the Free Churches of Scarborough. Mr. Carden has been a host in himself in the work of arranging for this Conference, and we were glad to see that, except for looking a little fagged, he seemed in good health. He is a man who can do heaps of work without saying much about it. Self-effacement is one of his shining qualities. No written address was presented this year by the deputation, an innovation not altogether unwelcome. The first speaker bore the honoured name of Rowntree. Mr. Joshua Rowntree is a man of fine presence, and delivered an address which revealed the great qualities which have made his family name so honourable in all this North country, and far beyond it. He spoke in warm terms of appreciation of the hearty support he had always received from our Church in all his efforts in the cause of righteousness. He cordially welcomed such a body of earnest fellow workers in the great cause, and hoped some of the crumbs of blessing associated with the assembly would fall amongst them in Scarborough, and help to increase their spiritual life. He expressed astonishment that we should have lived to see a day when the best citizens of the land were being imprisoned for conscience sake, and closed with a fitting reference to the evils of war and militarism. An earnest and telling address, without a particle of patronage or humbug in it.



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urged that special attention should be given to the question of preaching; and in reply the Principal said the students were now receiving lessons in elocution. There had been a whisper somewhere in his neighbourhood when Mr. Beckworth rose to speak on the College report expressing a hope that there would be no speeches, but when he sat down it was evident from the hearty applause that it was felt he had made a valuable contribution.

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WE are having splendid Conference weather. There has not been a drop of rain since we came, and day after day the sun shines and the delegates rejoice in the pleasant sea breezes. Inside the Conference Church the increased heat is making itself felt. The delegates have so far overcome their dread of draughts as to ask to have the windows opened, and throughout Friday afternoon and evening every window was open at the top all over the building. Weather a little less balmy would have tended to secure a larger attendance at the public services. After being cooped up all day in Conference, the sea shore and the delightful gardens along the cliffs constitute a strong temptation. Scarborough certainly possesses many and great attractions, and only the inveterate Conference glutton can be expected entirely to resist them.

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THE public meeting in St. Sepulchre Street on Thursday evening was fairly well attended. In the absence of the chairman through domestic affliction, the vice-chairman, Dr. Wilshaw, presided. This rising young doctor is evidently a loyal Primitive Methodist. He delivered a very practical address full of allusions to questions of present-day interest, and indicated the part the Church should play in regard to them. Christianity had relation, not merely to preaching and praying and singing, but to municipal work and all that made for the improvement of the social condition of the people. The second speaker was the Rev. T. Mostyn Pinnock, who grows little older with the advancing years, and certainly speaks with as much ability as ever. He gave a useful address on 'Work,' and emphasised the fact that the great lack in the case of many Christians was their unwillingness to surrender their wills and plans to the will of God. Behind all work

THE Rev. Frederick Hall, the minister of the Bar Congregational Church, also was to have spoken, but he was suffering from a relaxed throat, and had to content himself with a few words, in which he expressed his high appreciation of the work of our church, and cordially welcomed the Conference to Scarborough. The President of the Conference gave the official reply to the deputation, and acquitted himself well, especially when it is remembered that he has been away from this country so long. He admitted that he found himself strangely out of touch with the great movements of the last few years for the coming together of the churches, but not out of sympathy with them. Indeed, he had often felt cheered by what he read of the Federation of the Free Churches, and the great Simultaneous Mission had put new heart into them at Aliwal North. He had noticed certain results of that remarkable movement which perhaps were not so readily observed by people at home. They were now receiving a much larger share of attention from the secular press, and even the Government took more notice of them. In fact, he suspected that secretly, when the Government thought of the Free Churches, they trembled, for they had touched the Nonconformist conscience, and they would know it to their sorrow and their doom. Small wonder so many expedients were resorted to in order to stave off the fast-coming evil day. For the last 17 years he had, after his week's work was done, been the pastor of a Methodist Church. It was Methodist in name, but singularly composite in character. They had among their members, or congregation, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Plymouth Brethren, a Unitarian, and an Agnostic or two. And they never had any division or strife. For some years he had had a Plymouth Brother for society steward, and he never had a better. He had a bee in his bonnet about seat rents, and wouldn't pay any, but he made it up twenty times over in other ways. That gentleman was now in this country, and had been the first to telegraph his congratulations on Wednesday after the Presidential election. At the same time he ought to say that his ministry had been an old-fashioned Methodist one; he told the old story of Jesus and His love. Silvester Horne had said when attending the Metropolitan Missionary meeting that he was glad to be there because he liked to be associated with the church of the future. That was perhaps a deeper truth than the speaker thought, for the church of the future would be one which emphasised the doctrines of free

grace and a full salvation. Surely their church at Aliwal North might be regarded as a type of the church of the future.

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REV. T. BUTTRICK's words in introducing the Temperance Deputation not only indicated in the speaker a sense of personal pleasure, but also, as we inferred, very strong convictions on the Drink question. The deputation represented all the Temperance societies of Scarborough, and they are very numerous. The address read by Miss Hopkins was a beautiful and wholly ungrudging tribute to the work of our church in the temperance cause, and incidentally expressed satisfaction that Primitive Methodism had not only been closely associated with the modern total abstinence movement from the beginning, but had always been ready to afford women opportunities for the doing of Christian work. Miss Hopkins read the address in a clear manner, and at the conclusion she was heartily cheered. Rev. A. Kitson also spoke words of warm welcome to the Conference, and assured the delegates that a town that had associated with it the names of Rowntree and Whittaker was always glad to have Primitive Methodists among its visitors. His speech proved that he is a man thoroughly alive to the questions of the hour. No truer word has been spoken at this Conference than when he said the prime minister had done good to Nonconformists, because he had touched their conscience, and to the cause of Temperance because he had established and endowed the liquor traffic; and the Conference made it clear how thoroughly and unanimously it agreed with these sentiments by the hearty responses with which they were greeted.

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REV. T. H. HUNT, as the General Secretary of the temperance department of our church, has often replied to temperance deputations at various Conferences in a more or less effective manner, but we thought that this year his speech was distinctly above the average of what we have heard from him on previous occasions. Indeed, we shall not be wrong in describing it as in substance and form the greatest success we have known him to achieve. Anyone speaking on this question in behalf of our church finds himself in a peculiarly happy position. Our statistics are themselves eloquence unadorned. Our ministers are total abstainers to the number of ninety-nine out of every hundred, and we judge the one per cent. are among the older men who entered the ministry when the total abstinence conscience as it now is had hardly been created. And it was plain logic, making the conclusion inevitable, when Mr. Hunt claimed that as our people demanded total abstinence in their ministers, it was right that they should be total abstainers too. Besides, we have associated ourselves with every possible method for securing the overthrow of the drink evil. We believe in 'moral suasion,' we also believe in legislative reform. We are on this question 'whole-hoggers.'

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ANOTHER deputation, besides the two we generally have, came to the Conference this year in the shape of representatives from the Peace Society. They were introduced, again with great ability, by a layman, Mr. Hopwood, who is one of the leading laymen of Scarborough, one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of the town, and a man of many outstanding gifts and talents. He has been an Alderman of the town, and if we are not mistaken, a member of the Fisheries Commissioners Board. He is one of the easiest, most fluent, and most graceful speakers we have ever heard. Mr. Farquhar read the address, and it was spoken to by another Mr. Rowntree. Considering what this family suffered during the South African War, when their windows were broken by the 'patriots,' the young bloods of jingoism, and all manner of obliquity was poured upon them when the war fever was at its height, he might have taken this as a fair opportunity for pouring scorn upon the fire-eaters. For the eyes of the nation are now open, the people are willing to hear reason upon the question, and the tax-collector has sobered their minds. But he maintained the Quaker spirit, which never retaliates. But he did point out that when we are at war ourselves, it is difficult to see war as it really is. We can see it to some extent, at least, when we read how the Russians threw their wounded men lying on deck into the sea, that they might not be prevented by their groans and the sight of their sufferings from continuing the battle. It is horrible, and brings home to one the truth of Napoleon Bonaparte's definition of war. The French Emperor was not a member of the Peace Society, and had no special prejudices in favour of peace; he had had sufficient experience of war to constitute him an authority on the subject, and he declared that 'War is the work of Barbarians.' Mr. Rowntree said little about the economics of the question. We wish he had said more, for, after all, with our schools so badly equipped, so many people unemployed, the wages of unskilled working men so low, and more than one-fourth of the population of England below poverty line, the economics of the question have in them a distinct moral and religious element.

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THE Vice-President of the Conference was happy in his reply, and we are indebted to him for his condemnation of Boys' Brigades. It is pitiful, and worse, when the servants of the Prince of Peace, the Christians of the Anglican Church, find nothing better to do than to breed the military spirit in the minds of the boys of England; and it will certainly be all to the advantage of the boys and the country at large if other churches than the Anglican adopt the Vice-President's method, and as a set off, establish Boys' Life-Saving Brigades. The Vice-President pointed out, too, that the great mass of the working people of England supported Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain in their South African policy. Of the truth of this there can be no doubt, and they deserve, to some extent, the penalty that has come upon them in the shape of taxed food and cramped industries. At the same time, there is an extenuation for their folly, which, if it does not wholly justify them, is a partial excuse. It must never be forgotten how the springs of information, on which they were wholly dependent, were poisoned. The press published lies wholesale. If we had to say who, next to the members of the government and the gold-mine owners, are responsible for the degradation of England in these recent years, we should not hesitate to say it was the press.

ALREADY many applications have come from all parts of the country for the services of Mr. Odell and Mr. Flanagan, and those churches who wish to engage either of these gifted evangelists should send their applications to the Rev. James Pickett, the General Missionary Secretary, during the next three weeks, as their work for twelve months will be planned in a short time. It is clear that this order of agents in our church is greatly needed, and four connexional evangelists are likely to prove none too many. But in time we shall overtake the need. Two years ago we only had one, this last year we have had two, from this date onward we shall have four.

\* \* \*

A NEW departure has been made regarding our ministerial training machinery. Mr. Beckworth showed in the speech to which reference has already been made that our College at Manchester, when the extension now being made has been completed, will be the finest denominational College in the kingdom. Principal Johnson has also submitted a scheme for the affiliation of the College with the Theological faculty of Victoria University. The letter of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, read by Principal Johnson, was a most interesting document. It was really the invitation of the Faculty to our College to become affiliated. One of the most pleasing things in it was the compliment it paid to Professor Peake. We are becoming accustomed by this time to hear high encomiums pronounced upon this distinguished scholar, but with each new one we are as delighted as though it had been the first. The Vice-Chancellor wrote of the reputation of Mr. Peake among the theological scholars of Oxford. It is just possible that in the matter of Biblical scholarships his equal is hardly to be found. Of course the Conference very heartily adopted the recommendations of the College Committee to have the affiliation effected. This will enable any of our Manchester students who may have graduated at the great Universities to take the degree of Doctor of Divinity. We hope we are done with pseudo degrees.

\* \* \*

APPRECIATION of the College is growing year by year, and the old cry, once so popular (among a rather loud section), that it would be a pity if the only door into our ministry were through the College, has now become wholly without effect. It was raised at this Conference, but it received practically no support. Personally we do not think it will be a bad day when the College is the only door into our ministry. That day has not yet come, but we hope it is not far distant. Whatever gifts a man may have, they will be strengthened, refined, and improved by a course at such an institution as our Manchester College. The clever men recognise this. The question was asked at this Conference why an exceptionally able young man was to be compelled to go straight into the ministry. He wanted to go to College. And when it was pointed out that he was needed for circuit work because there were not a sufficient number of students coming out of the College this year to supply all the vacancies, his advocate among the delegates expressed the hope that even if this year he had to go to a circuit, and be thus penalised for his exceptional ability, he might be allowed to go to the College later. These are healthy signs, and augur well for the future of our ministry.

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REV. HENRY YOOLL submitted the report of the Local Preachers' Training Council. The Connexional Editor for long has been earnestly interested in this work, and his name will always be associated with the foundation of a scheme that was much needed, and is to-day big with promise. It not only promises much, but thus early has achieved something substantial. To-day there are three hundred in the Correspondence Classes. That of course is a small number out of 16,000, but then, the movement has barely begun, and of course few of the older local preachers can be expected to join. If a larger portion of the younger men will only use the privilege offered we shall not hear so many complaints about pulpits being supplied by local preachers. But the Correspondence Classes are only one branch of the scheme. Even greater good may be expected to come out of the District Associations, for after all the contact of mind with mind is of as great importance as book-lore. The movement has also led to the establishment of circuit libraries and the resuscitation of some that had become almost defunct. We know also it has led to a good deal of book-buying, and valuable as circuit libraries are, the most useful book a man can have is one that is his own—one he can mark, fill up with marginal notes, and use regularly as a book of reference. Mr. Yooll's speech was a very excellent one, and in many parts was beautiful and striking in its phrasing.

\* \* \*

THE Memorial Service for deceased ministers, although it did not reach the high level that characterised those of the last two years, was nevertheless very beautiful and impressive, and above the average level. The Rev. A. Beavan's address was certainly a model. It revealed insight, good taste, spiritual fervour, and perhaps most conspicuously of all a fine power of compression. He named each of the twenty-two ministers who have died during the year, and in a few sentences, every one of which was a piece of finished composition, indicated the salient points of the man's character and work, and he never fell into tautology. It was a very fine performance indeed. Twenty-two is a large number of men to have fallen in one year, and although many of them had reached a ripe age, some of them were in the prime of their manhood, and one was a probationer. Some had died peacefully, to others the end had come tragically. One or two were outstanding figures in the denomination. The eloquence of Dr. Ferguson had fired congregations of Primitive Methodists from Scotland to the extreme South of England. For a generation at least the heroic work of William Thobey on the Station in which he died, Knaresboro', will be remembered with gratitude and admiration. Daniel Neilson's memory will be kept green in the mind of many a minister who has profited under his tutorship at Manchester College; and John Taylor's burning message will live in the hearts of scores of his spiritual sons and daughters in the North of England. They lived and worked, and loved and suffered, and at last fell for the Master, and their names have been added to the roll of those who have fought the fight and kept the faith.

THE Sunday School report on Saturday afternoon gave rise to a lengthy and in some respects a fruitful discussion. The main points of the report itself will be found in our Conference Report. It was spoken to by the Secretary, the Rev. S. S. Henshaw, who managed at once to put himself and his audience in good humour with one of those comprehensive statements which by their dash and sweep somehow tickle an audience. To bring home to the Conference the vast importance of Sunday School work he said that to save the child was to save the man, and to save the girl was to save the mother and the home and the Empire. Attention was called to the fact that 45 per cent. of the membership of the Connexion was in its schools. While the teachers were improving in their efficiency, it should be said that the conditions under which many of them carried on their work needed improving. A specially pleasing feature was the fact that an adverse balance of the Union funds of two years ago had become a balance in hand of £140. The Vice-President then called attention to the need for reform in the teaching and methods of the schools, and urged the adoption of the Boys' Brigades, originated, we believe, by Dr. Paton of Nottingham, not for destroying life, but saving it. These brigades are furnished with a certain paraphernalia of an attractive kind, and the great object aimed at was the teaching of the laws of health and physical development, &c. We always find that when this subject is up in Conference there is no lack of speakers. So many are engaged in this work, and interested in it.

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WE had a speech from a layman which greatly diverted the Conference. He said that 'in the Agenda we have got an omission that ought to be there.' The Conference laughed, but the brother did not seem to understand what it was all about. Still he held on his way, and described how 1000 scholars entered the school at the bottom, and came out at the top, 'like smoke out of a funnel.' His point was that there should be statistics to show the causes of losses under three heads: deaths, removals, and other causes. If the results did not stagger humanity they would the next Conference. The Rev. J. D. Jackson next called attention in a capital speech to the need for more denominational teaching in our schools, by which he meant the teaching of Nonconformist principles and the distinctive principles of Primitive Methodism. A primer or condensed history of the Connexion should be provided for the use of the schools. Mr. Councillor J. Wood was not satisfied with the efficiency of the teaching, and thought the class system of the day schools might be tried, a large class being placed in charge of a thoroughly competent teacher. Mr. Howe of London contended that the great need was for teachers to interest themselves personally in the scholars from the time they entered the school, and so get them attached to the church. Mr. T. J. Grainger evidently regarded our methods as hide-bound. We must get out of the old ruts, and strongly advocated the Boys' Brigades spoken of by the Vice-President. At this point the report was adopted and the Vice-President introduced a resolution asking the Committee to consider the question of a reform of our Sunday School teaching and methods, including the question of Denominational Teaching, and the Life Saving Brigade, and to report to next Conference.

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A DELEGATE from South Wales illustrated the need for denominational teaching by the circumstance that in his neighbourhood, which lay within the area of the Welsh revival, the Baptists had caused them trouble by the circulation of certain pamphlets, to meet which they had formed classes and given the young people regular teaching in the principles of their Church, with the happiest results. The Connexional Editor reminded the Conference that it was in contemplation to publish booklets in regard to the founders of our Church, etc. He also thought more than one-fourth of their teachers should take the 'Sunday School Journal,' and suggested that the value of the week-night service might be enhanced by an exposition of the Sunday School Lesson. Rev. T. M. Pinnock admitted that they could not get efficient teaching except by the introduction of the grading system, but it should be remembered that the purpose of the school was twofold—to teach and to win, and the scholars could not be won without the direct personal influence of the teacher. A brief, but real contribution to the discussion. Rev. J. S. Nightingale urged a closer relation of the minister to the school. The resolution of the Vice-President was ultimately adopted. It may be interesting to note that in introducing the subject Mr. Rawlings took occasion to quote from Professor Peake's leader in the first issue of this journal.

\* \* \*

ALDERMAN L. L. MORSE, J.P., having generously offered to found a S. S. Lectureship, the offer was gratefully accepted by the Conference, and the first Lecturer of the Morse Sunday School Union Lectureship will be the Rev. T. H. Hunt. The lecture will be associated with the Triennial Conference. We had next the reports of the various Temperance Committees, to which the Rev. T. H. Hunt spoke. Something of a breeze sprang up in connection with a resolution urging our people to support only those Parliamentary candidates who pledged themselves to Temperance reform. Rev. James Shepherd said he could not vote for that, because a candidate might be all right on every other point, and another all wrong except on that one point, and he must vote for the man with whom he in the main agreed. Mr. Henry Adams, in a very strongly worded speech, supported the last speaker. He wanted all he could get, even if he could not get all he wanted. He strongly objected to the issue of certain election literature by a single person. Mr. J. J. Appleby moved the clause be struck out, and this was seconded by Mr. Adams. Rev. J. Griffin would not support any candidate who declined to support Temperance reform. If shaky on that question, he might be expected to be so on others. The Vice-President interposed with a suggestion that the clause should be modified to read that our people be urged to give active support to those candidates who will pledge themselves to Temperance reform. This compromise was accepted.

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**Minsterley.**  
Chapel Anniversary sermons were preached by Mr. Bewley Weaver, of Hanley, who also delivered an excellent address on Whit Monday. A number surrendered themselves to Christ for salvation. The collections, apart from donations, realised £7.



## International Sunday School Lesson.

### SENNACHERIB'S INVASION.

2 CHRONICLES xxxii. 9-23.

SUNDAY, JULY 2nd, 1905.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—'With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles.' 2 Chron. xxxii. 8, (R.V.) Hymns (New S. S. Hymnal) 316, 324, 326, 340. Sennacherib, King of Assyria (705-681 B.C.); Hezekiah, King of Judah; Isaiah, prophet in Jerusalem. Parallel passages, 2 Kings xix. 20-22, 28-37; Isaiah xxxvii. 21-38.

I. The person with which our new series of studies starts sets forth in striking object lesson form two striking policies of life, enabling us with wonderful distinctness, to see their accompanying characteristics and their unvarying issues. What makes the lesson so important in its freshness. We see precisely the same proud, boastful, defiant spirit, trusting in its might of arm, or length of purse, or power of members; and if we watch current history with care we may mark its swift overthrows and ruin, often brought about by the most unlooked for and apparently insignificant means. Thus it is that these old histories, coming over into our new time, are as fascinating as they are instructive.

II.—It is significant and typical—the teacher will not fail to call attention to—that so far as space and words and show are concerned, the greater part of the lesson is occupied with

#### The Boast of Material Strength.

vv. 10 to 19, are one wearying and sickening refrain, with a capital 'I' supplying the key-note. See specially vv. 13, 14. All that we know of Sennacherib is in keeping with the flagrant pretensions of his speech here. On a tablet, fortunately recovered, scholars have deciphered this amazing advertisement of himself. He causes himself to be published as 'The Great King, the Powerful King, the King of the Assyrians, of the natives of the four regions, the diligent ruler, the favourite of the great gods, the observer of sworn faith, the guardian of law, the establisher of monuments, the noble hero, the strong warrior, the first of kings, the punisher of unbelievers, the destroyer of 'wicked men.'

The opening words of our lesson, after this, follows on a series of triumphant victories, in which this proud oppressor had borne down all opposition. First Babylon, then the Medes in Northern Elam, then Phoenicia and Southern Palestine, where, in swift succession Moab, Edom, Ascalon, and the Philistine cities of Beth-Dagon, Joppa, Barka and Azor, fell to him. Then he overran Judea, taking 46 fenced cities, and carrying off more than 200,000 captives. Thus, flushed with victory, and establishing himself at Lachish, south of Jerusalem, not far from Gaza, he sent this defiant call to surrender against Jerusalem and its king. The teacher will mark in the lesson the always accompanying characteristics of the boastful spirit:—(a) utter selfishness, (b) growing pride, and (c) a shocking recklessness alike of the rights of God and man. (See vv. 15-16.)

III.—How modern it all is! And how insidiously and swiftly it grows upon one! So any natural power or acquired ability may become a snare, if it becomes an end in itself, and we forget the great Giver of all. It is very sad, and the more so that it is entirely unnecessary that things, good in themselves, may become a stumbling-block. A beautiful figure, a rich voice, undoubted skill in any pursuit or game, pride in its mere possession, instead of the thought of its highest use, will mar the value of it all. So men become proud of their possessions, their influence, their position; and success feeds their vanity, until there grows round it every attendant evil.

#### The Overthrow of Material Strength

is briefly, but graphically told. The position of v. 20 coming immediately after the blasphemy which denied the Invisible, and the Effective interposition of that power which Sennacherib denied, is very suggestive. It is a mediating human cause. It indicates the way out in all our intensely critical circumstances. Prayer is an answering weapon against which no Sennacherib, ancient or modern, can permanently hold out. So, too, v. 20 is as a light in a dark place. With the tyrant at their very gates, elated by a series of unchecked advances, it is delightful to find this instance of faith in the unseen and the refusal to abandon hope. Is not this also our hope and our privilege against the proud threat of modern indifference, the power of drink, the greed of gold, the quiet defiance of the spiritual? And is not the human origin of the Welsh Revival, beginning in the simple prayer and testimony of a C. E. meeting, the latest illustration of the old truth, 'not by might . . . but by my Spirit'?

V.—The teacher will point out. The supremacy of spiritually directed life from the closing verses of the lesson. Outwardly, the position of the Assyrian king seemed invulnerable. Yet, in the moment of his greatest triumph, how complete his humiliation. And the ease with which it was accomplished is as striking as its sudden thoroughness. Not a legion, but 'an angel,' and one hundred and eighty-five thousand, including the chief leaders of Assyria perished. 'So he returned with shame of face to his own land' of Nineveh, to his splendid palace, 1,500 ft. long by 700 ft. broad, there, like his father, to be murdered, and murdered by the hands of his own sons, a defeated and dishonoured man, a sad warning to all those who trust in an arm of flesh. It is enough for us that the lesson establishes the greater power of spiritual forces. The angel of the Lord 'may have used a blast of the Simoom, plague, or pestilence,'—the neighbourhood of the disaster being notorious in this respect—the action is the Divine judgment upon wicked boasting. Material refuges cannot effectually shelter immortal spirits. 'With us,' must be 'the Lord our God.'

—H. J. PICKETT.

## Christian Endeavour.

### Topic for Week beginning June 25th.

GROWING UP FOR GOD.—Eph. iv. 11-16. (Joint Meeting with Juniors.)

#### I.

'WHICH of you, by being anxious, can add one cubit to his statue?' said Jesus, by which He meant that growth came not by the exercise of the mind, but goes on apart from our anxiety about it. The new schools of physical culture are proving that men may increase their stature and improve their physique considerably; but it is not by mere anxiety so much as by the perfect fulfilling of the laws of life and health. Let a man use the powers he has, exercise every muscle regularly, eat wholesome food, and avoid all that is physically harmful, and he will grow naturally, and perhaps almost unconsciously. It is so with spiritual growth. We must 'exercise' ourselves unto Godliness. Men grow in grace by exercising the gracious spirit; they receive new strength by using what they have. Anxiety to grow will not produce growth any more than hunger for food will nourish the body. It is the eating that satisfies and builds up. So reading fills the mind and quickens the understanding. Prayer, Bible study, Christian Service, build up the soul and establish character. By 'speaking the truth in love,' we grow up in all things.

#### II.

With a wonderful wealth of metaphor Paul shows us that true growth in character is a long process. It is like the building up of a manly frame through the years of childhood and youth. The mushroom may grow in an hour, but it quickly perishes. The oak tree grows imperceptibly, but solidly. Every year marks the addition only of a thin ring of wood, but the life of the tree is reckoned in centuries. The Christian may struggle with his limitations, and often mourn his failures; but he is building for eternity, and though it may take long years for him to grow to the stature of the fullness of Christ, the goal will be reached, and perfection is always worth sacrifice and toil. An artist may spoil scores of canvasses, and a sculptor produce many imperfect models, but these are the stepping stones to success. It is perseverance, rather than genius, that wins in the long run.

'If thou canst plan a noble deed,  
And never flag till it succeed,  
Though in the strife thy heart should bleed  
Whatever obstacles contend,  
Thine hour will come, go on thou, soul!  
Thou'lt win the prize, thou'lt reach the goal.'

#### III.

True growth depends much on right beginnings. A great building must have true and solid foundations. Half the work of putting up a building is completed when you have got a good, firm level foundation. Yet, like some jerry builders, we often scamp the foundation work that we may get on with the superstructure. Many a man's life has been spoiled because he had not the patience to stay at school to finish his education. He has been so anxious to build a fortune, or make a name, that he has gone to the work ill-equipped, and failed. A few more years hard work at school would have made all the difference.

After the foundation of a building is laid the lower walls must be built straight and 'plumb,' or the whole structure may be out of perpendicular, and the walls eventually collapse. It is just as important that we should begin right in life. If there are compromises with wrong at the beginning, if we allow questionable things to creep into our lives, it may mean our ultimate undoing. A good start is everything.

#### IV.

For true growth there must be true ideals.

'One great aim, like a guiding-star above,  
Which tasks strength, wisdom, stateliness, to lift  
Their manhood to the height that takes the prize.'

In this beautiful story 'The Great Stone Face' Nathaniel Hawthorne describes how a lad grew up to manhood contemplating the virtues that must be possessed by the hero who should one day return to their village with features like those of the benign but majestic face cut in the mountain above his home. The boy grew to manhood and lived towards age without seeing one worthy of his great ideal. The soldier, politician, merchant prince, poet, had all disappointed him; but one night, as he spoke to the people in the eventide, they realised in the light of the setting sun that his features were the very replica of the great stone face. He had lived all those years in the company of great moral ideals and unconsciously through their influence he had grown up to the character he had looked for in others. In the Christian life, amid all our imperfections, we may keep before us the perfect life and the beautiful spirit of Jesus, and we must perpetually press forward in our endeavour to be like Him. Ultimately we shall be rewarded by attaining unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, into a full-grown man, into a measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ,

GEORGE AYRE.

## Class-Leaders' Column.

THIS column is opened to-day in the interests of the Class Leaders of our Church, and on alternate weeks I hope to discuss questions of practical value. Many readers will share our gladness that the editor of *The Leader* is prepared to exhibit practical sympathy with the Leaders of Primitive Methodism by giving a column of his paper wherein we may have conference together concerning the work which lies near our hearts. And while we are grateful for the opportunity of mutual aid, we also regard the action of the Editor as wise, for the more than 10,000 leaders of our Church cannot help each other without enriching the life of the whole.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to say that the writer of this column has been a Class Leader for a number of years; he is also an Endeavourer, and rejoices in the fellowship of a Church which has a weekly attendance at Classes of about 200. I know something of the Class Meeting problem both in town and village. I know how the Class is the hope of one church and the despair of another. I have heard the lament of the devotee, and the criticism of the absentee, and I have an opinion about both. I know those to whom the Class Meeting is the burden of a sigh, and the falling of a tear, and others to whom it is such an ecstasy that, compared with its ministries, Jacob's ladder was a rickety staircase, and the angels but tufts of vanishing cloud.

I hope not to forfeit the respect of my readers when I confess I have few pet ideas about Class Meetings. But for its fatal associations I should own to possessing an open mind. The Class Meeting is just what we like to make it; its tone, colour, and fruitfulness depend upon ourselves; that for those who wail that its days are gone, they are gone; for those who believe they are coming, they have really come.

May we, then, as Leaders take counsel together through the medium of this fortnightly column. The very essence of our meetings is the idea that we can help each other; may we not, therefore, as Leaders do the same? We earnestly hope that our column will be largely occupied with correspondence. This will keep us in touch with each other, and make our section what we desire it to be, extremely practical. I remember a speech delivered a while ago by Lord Rosebery, the keynote of which was *Efficiency*. This, argued the speaker, was the supreme need—in education, in commerce, and in empire. Not cash and bluster, not stilt and balloons, but Efficiency. This is our need as Class Leaders, and we must be willing to help each other to the uttermost to secure it. Many will write stating their difficulties; will those who have overcome send a message to their brethren? I have heard that some persons who cannot write a story can make a plot, and that skilful writers are sometimes glad to use the raw material of other minds. Now, among our Leaders are men fertile in ideas, while others, again, can pursue and make successful the suggestion of a friend. Some have had exceptional experience, have tried experiments, have known both failure and success; will it not be a great advantage to young Leaders and others of restricted range to feed upon the garnered grain of these experiences?

Many of our most successful Leaders are unaccustomed to correspondence; others may regard the true Leader as one born, not made, and his secret an incommunicable one, while others again may look upon success as a local thing owing its speciality to circumstances. These views may be correct, but still a large margin is left. Each man who has a practical and intelligent interest in a task has something to say to other workers which is well worth hearing. Untold gain may come to countless hearts by the free interchange of ideas. Again, therefore, it is suggested that our Leaders take full advantage of this page. As we sometimes say to our members, 'Let there be no waiting.' Let us not trouble about style and polish, nor imagine that all the world and his wife will look and criticise; but as busy and earnest workers let us do our best to help each other.

It is now the custom in many Classes to arrange and print a programme each quarter. I shall be glad to receive copies of these for publication in this column. It will add to the interest if the name of the Church may be stated to which the Class belongs.

In many instances the Scriptures are extensively used. It would be profitable to learn on what basis the selection of passages is made. Some may follow the International Lesson; others the C.E. topic; and others an arrangement of their own. Will our friends let me know how best to use the Word of God?

Some Classes arrange a special summer programme, wherein provision is made for occasional open-air services. This raises an important question, 'Ought not our larger Classes to favour the open-air treatment?'

It would make an interesting column, if our leaders would answer the question, 'How to keep the Class going in hot weather!'

'CLASS LEADER.'

All communications for this column should be addressed to 'Class Leader,' Office of the 'Primitive Methodist Leader,' 73 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.

#### Penzance Circuit.

We have just been favoured with a visit from Mr. C. M. Luke, J.P., of New Zealand. This gentleman, who has twice presided over the New Zealand Conference, is the representative of that Colony to the English Conference. It is thirty-one years ago since he left Penzance, and throughout that time he has remained loyal to the church of his faith. He has preached both at Penzance and Newby, and lectured at the former place on 'Australian Life.' It was an interesting and able address, and well deserved the kind things said about it by the Rev. John S. Buckley, who presided.

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## CONFERENCE PORTRAITS.

By the Dalesmen.

REV. J. D\*\*\* J\*\*\*\*\* is not a silent member of the Conference. Indeed, he never fails to take a hand in the big debates when anything of the kind happens to come off. Somewhat tall and thin, with black hair, which is turning gray; nose long, eyes full, and bespeaking the gift of expression. The general expression of the features is saturnine, with a decided tendency to melancholy. Indeed, we imagine that on a Monday, occasionally, when the wheels have not been oiled with inspiration the day before, he will be disposed to see everything, himself included, through green spectacles. And yet he was the most rollicking speaker on the opening day of the Conference. When he gets on his feet to address the Conference you perceive that the voice is clear and serviceable, though in no way noteworthy. It is, however, well managed, and the accent is cultured without any trace of provincialism. He has a choice vocabulary, and if the subject will admit of it, there will be imagery at once rare and beautiful. You note that his facial expression has the gravity of a judge pronouncing the death sentence, and yet he is a humourist. The comical and farcical side of things will appeal to him irresistibly. He is an exceptionally fine preacher. His conceptions impress you as having come to him in the way of inspiration, and probably he felt as he fashioned the sermon that he had very little to do with it: it came to him, and made itself, he knew not how. Clear in outline, brilliant in imagery and illustration, often striking in their originality, and lit up here and there with gleams of humour, his sermons will delight a congregation, especially of an intelligent type. He is not given to what is called oratory, but speech flows and ripples from him in an easy conversational style, and falls upon the hearer in silvery tones, pleasant to the ear. Now and then the speaker will employ the weapon of satire with deadly effect. The connexion is familiar with his writings. For a good many years now he has been a contributor to our magazines, and his work always bears the marks of culture, insight, and literary finish. In conversation you will not be always sure whether he is joking or in earnest. Though so serious of mien he cannot long be serious; and perhaps it is a merciful provision that his natural tendency to something like melancholy should have been able to find a corrective in the perception and expression of the funny side of things. He himself dwells as frequently on the verge of tears as of laughter, and in sooth the two are more nearly akin than we commonly suppose.

MR. J\*\*\*\* W\*\*\* is among the fathers. He must be from sixty to sixty-five years of age. Picture to yourself a man somewhere about six feet in height, of fine gentlemanly appearance; head well formed, a shapely nose, full lips, and a short beard and moustache. He is a good speaker, and puts his points as one who has had long experience. In sooth he did not become a local preacher yesterday; it must be well on for fifty years since he came on the plan. Perhaps that is the reason why he has a slight tendency to be lengthy; he is so full of matter and has such a superabundance of good things he wants to say. No local preacher in Cheshire, however, is in greater demand for special services, especially school anniversaries. In the summer months, in fact, he is constantly engaged on his own or neighbouring stations. Few local preachers in the connexion do so much of this kind of work. Then our friend belongs to one of the families renowned in Primitive Methodism, and the curious reader may find the portraits of two ancestors side by side in one of the earlier numbers of the new History of the Connexion. We cannot trace any personal resemblance between our subject and these two portraits, but then these things work out queerly. They were notable men in their day the brothers W\*\*\*\*, and one of them established Primitive Methodism in the town of Crewe. A memorial church, too, has been erected to the memory of one of them in a town which shall be nameless. It would be difficult to say what offices our friend has not held; and he is a splendid friend to the ministers. All his resources and experience are at the service of the Church. He is a pattern official in this respect: he is rarely absent from a week-night service, and to have him as a hearer is to be favoured with a source of inspiration. His house has all his life been open to Primitive Methodists, and his good lady is a lady indeed, one of the gems of the womanhood of Primitive Methodism. It only remains to add that the general public have recognised our friend's worth by electing him a member of the County Council, and he was for some years Chairman of the School Board.

MR. W\*\*\*\*\* C\*\*\*\*\* has been a local preacher considerably over thirty years, and is growing venerable in appearance. All his life he has been in sympathy with the movements in the Connexion in the direction of intellectual culture. You would generally find him, even thirty years ago, familiar with the best articles in the 'Quarterly Review.' He knew and loved the great men who moulded Primitive Methodism in the North of England a generation ago, and will talk by the hour of Colin Campbell McKechnie, Thomas Smith, Peter Clarke, and their peers. He generally gets his oar in at Conference. As a speaker, his besetting sin, so to speak, has always been the parenthesis. Ideas so crowd upon him that, ever and anon, one which only has a remote bearing on the main question under discussion will beguile him away from the track, and he will have a difficulty in resuming the thread of his argument. Sometimes a parenthesis within a parenthesis will entangle him, and then you begin to think he is hopelessly lost. But by-and-by he will struggle out of the meshes in which the luxuriance of his fancy has threatened to imprison him, and it will be discovered that he had a contribution of some value to make to the debate. Our friend had the distinction, some years ago, to be nominated as a labour candidate for Parliament, but the present Member for the Wansbeck Division of Northumberland secured a larger vote. It will be gathered from this that Mr. C\*\*\*\*\* has enjoyed no inconsiderable measure of the confidence of his fellow workmen, and has an intimate knowledge of labour questions, especially in connection with the Northumberland miners. He is one of a band of men who did yeoman service for our Church in South East

Northumberland. The commanding position of Primitive Methodism in that part of the country is due largely to their loyalty and devotion. Most of them have now joined the great majority, and our friend must sometimes think, with wistful sadness, of his old companions who have gone before.

REV. W\*\*\*\*\* A. E\*\*\* is not by any means among the sons of Anak. He is rather small of stature; dapper, well-groomed, and in every way respectable; hair once black, now becoming sprinkled with grey, but still abundant; features with a slight resemblance to those of the late Hugh Price Hughes. Curiously enough the same resemblance is discernable in the timbre of the voice. His sermons and addresses are carefully prepared, and always brimful of anecdote and illustration. He never fails to interest his audiences, and they will seldom come away without being richly profited as well. They will at least understand what he is driving at; for he is neither unduly profound, nor yet does he deal in anything misty or philosophical. He sets out with a practical purpose in view, and generally succeeds in accomplishing it. Pains-taking, plodding, devoted, and genial, he has been a useful and successful circuit minister. In his early years he was a trifle pernickety, as the Scotch say, but the rough and tumble of life has probably taken that out of him, as it does with most of us. When he first entered the ministry he came under the superintendency of some capital superintendents like the late Rev. Alexander McKechnie, and so was well grounded in circuit administration. His people will always find him a man and a brother; he will enter into their experiences, and they will be able to count on his sympathy in times of sorrow. The young people will find in him a friend, and he will be in hearty sympathy with Sunday School work and such movements as Christian Endeavour. Do not imagine because he is genial and friendly that he will allow you unlimited freedom to tread on his toes. He is not by any means without personal dignity, and knows how to assert himself on occasion. But if he has a due sense of what is owing to himself he is not without a correct appreciation of what is due to others. Hence reasonable people will find him easy to get along with. Long may he live to serve our church.

DR. W\*\*\*\*\*—The son of a highly esteemed minister of our own Church, and an official of some twelve years standing, Dr. W\*\*\*\*\* is a rising man in his profession in the town of Southport, where he is known as a Progressive in politics, a Passive Resister, and one of the staunchest Free Churchmen in West Lancashire. He is a local preacher, and with his culture, his grip of great principles, and a gift of speech which, if at the outset is slightly hesitant, grows ardent and vigorous as he proceeds. He is a man any circuit may be proud to have upon its plan. He has a clear voice, with a persuasive note in it which is effective not only in the pulpit but in the official meetings of the Church. There, as well as in the general life of the Church, he reveals himself as the type of official which constitutes the saving salt of our churches—liberal, independent, with an eye for principles rather than petty details. Our friend does not belong to the race of the pigmies. We should say he is fully five feet ten inches in height, and carries just the amount of flesh characteristic of health. The face, somewhat pale, is strongly intellectual, and tinged with a mystic glow, and about the whole personality is an air at once refined and impressive. A new figure in Conference and a decided acquisition. So capable a man and so loyal a Primitive Methodist should make his mark in our Connexional Parliament.

REV. P. O. H\*\*\*\*\* Few men possess a more distinguished presence than the ministerial representative of the North British District. He is, to begin with, a head taller than the rest of the Conference, and is proportionately built. He is of the mould you find mainly in what is known in the North of England as the West Country. There they breed men of stature, of bone and sinew, and withal of brain. With a finely formed head, well set on a pair of broad shoulders; dark hair rapidly becoming grey; well-formed features and rather full face, shaven except for a heavy moustache; the eyes large and with gleams of kindness and sympathy in their liquid depths, our subject has a striking personality. He is often very deliberate of speech, and impresses you as a man who will always carefully measure his words. He will look well before he leaps, but when he makes up his mind his leap will be full of decision and determination. He knows where he is going, and he means to get there. And yet he has a heart as tender as a child. With the temperament of the orator and the gift of imagination, he is effective both in the pulpit and on the platform. A splendid organiser, and a first rate administrator, the station is fortunate that secures him as its superintendent. To all this must be added, if our sketch is to convey any real idea of the man, a diffidence and modesty which somehow we associate with big men. In Hull and Glasgow, where he is serving a second term, he has rendered magnificent service. He has already made his mark in Conference by a speech which commended an important resolution to the assembly; and we congratulate him on having so successfully made his debut in our annual Parliament.

MR. COUNCILLOR C. R. S\*\*\*\*\*—Imagine to yourselves a man of gentlemanly bearing, tall, somewhat thin, bearded, with a slightly pale face, light brown hair, and grey eyes, and you have one of the leading citizens of Chippenham. He is still in the prime of life, but has been an official of our church for close upon thirty years. When he rises to speak you realise somehow that he is a self-made man, who by grit and principle, joined to good natural abilities, has won for himself a good position among his fellows. He will always take a practical view of a question, and if the subject lends itself to statistics he will be in his element. The voice is good and well heard. He speaks, moreover, easily and without strain. As an official, he is wise and cautious, yet withal full of enthusiasm and liberality. Conscientiousness has been a marked feature of his character all his life. When he began business



Grout Engraving Co.

E. C. RAWLINGS, Esq.,  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE.



he resolutely set aside one-tenth of his income for the Lord's work; and he attributes much of his success to this principle. Few business people devote more time to Christian work than our friend and his family. It goes without saying that Mr. S\*\*\*\*\* has been a liberal supporter of his own church and of all the societies in his circuit. Happy the minister with such a loyal layman to support him.

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REV. J\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* Attention to detail and an aptitude for steady toil are valuable qualities in a circuit minister; and when to these you add ability and devotion, geniality of disposition and kindness of heart, the combination is one likely to ensure no ordinary measure of success. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* has occupied positions in which these qualities were required in no common measure, and it will generally be admitted that he evidenced their possession in no small degree. We may have men in our ministry of more brilliant ability, whose pulpit thinking is more profound, and with gifts more nearly akin to genius, and yet whose success will not for a moment compare with his. There is a certain balance of qualities which will often tell far more in the work of life than the possession of abnormal abilities. Our friend is a good circuit minister, and in addition he has remarkable gifts of a secretarial kind. This goes without saying when it is remembered that for a long succession of years he held in his District the onerous post of Building Committee Secretary, and that he occupies at the present time the office of Secretary of a most important Society. As this post is generally a stepping stone to higher things, we should not be surprised if our subject were one of these days elected to a Connexional Office. He is tall and grey, and somewhat worn in appearance. We wonder if he has been accustomed to burn the midnight oil. If so, though it may have drained somewhat his physical strength it has not marred the serenity, the sweet reasonableness of his disposition. He knows the 'blessedness of drudgery,' and is willing to take his full share of that beatitude.

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MR. C. S. P\*\*\*\*\* Here is another representative of the Local Preachers, but a man who does a great deal besides preaching. To be a leader of a Christian Endeavour Society, Treasurer of several chapels, Treasurer of the District Furnishing Fund, and Secretary of the Manchester Extension Fund Committee, in addition to being a Local Preacher much in request throughout his District, is an indication of character and ability of no common order. Mr. P\*\*\*\*\* is a son of the Manse, and owes much to his sainted father, the late Rev. S. P\*\*\*\*\*. Although holding a position of responsibility and importance in one of the great business houses of Manchester, our friend religiously reserves his leisure for Church work. An active worker, and an effective speaker in the cause of Temperance, a thorough going Nonconformist, keenly interested in the Education Question and in local affairs, his is a busy life; and since he has not yet reached his prime, we anticipate for him a career of distinguished service. He is a worthy representative of our Church, and Manchester Primitive Methodism owes him much, his own Circuit most of all. Tall, of fair complexion, and spare habit; strong, distinct voice, and clear incisive and accurate speech; a ready and skilful debater, and with the mingled caution and 'go' which constitute the leader of new enterprises, Mr. C. S. P\*\*\*\*\* is a credit to our Church.

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REV. G\*\*\*\*\* P. C\*\*\*\*\* Among the men who will be sure to make themselves heard at this Conference is the Rev. G\*\*\*\*\* P. C\*\*\*\*\* Not that he is aggressive or self-assertive, or anything of that kind; but he has gifts of speech and business aptitudes which ought to make him one of the prominent figures of the Conference. It was at the Bradford Conference, if we remember rightly, that he first came into connexional notice and gave indications of possessing some of the qualifications which make a man in some sense connexional. Since that time he has done much hard work, and has rendered valuable connexional service in more than one difficult station. In one case the task he undertook was Herculean, but he placed our cause there on an entirely new footing. We judge that one special term left its mark upon him. His work was of a kind involving no small measure of worry and strain. But he is still equal to active service, and will, we trust, in varied ways, serve the church of his choice. For thirty-seven years he has given himself without stint to the work of our ministry, and has done much to advance Primitive Methodism in the localities where he has laboured. His beard is showing signs of grey, but his hair retains its natural colour, and he ought to have a few years of valuable service in him yet.

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MR. W. M. P\*\*\*\*\* It is not the first time the Conference has been favoured with the presence of our subject as a delegate, and yet he has never been a very prominent member of our annual assembly. A journalist and author, he has a certain shrinking from publicity, an indisposition to push himself to the front, which has tended to make him one of the quiet members of Conference. There is in his aspect a certain rugged force, and his speech is racy of the Northern soil, and especially of the soil on the banks of the Tyne. He was for many years intimately connected with the journalism of a northern town, and has long been a loyal and devoted member and official of our Church. As a writer of fiction, he has attained to considerable fame in the North country, and his contributions to our own magazines have been of more than average interest and ability. He is, of course, a politician, and it is scarcely necessary to indicate the political party with which he is allied. But we judge his affinities and tastes dispose him more to literature than party politics. His culture and ability, his loyalty and devotion, make him a valuable official, and we anticipate that his presence at the Scarborough Conference will strengthen it in the qualities that go to make a Conference worthy and successful. He has, even at this early stage of the Conference, got in his oar in debate, and we doubt not he will make yet further contributions to our great annual palaver.

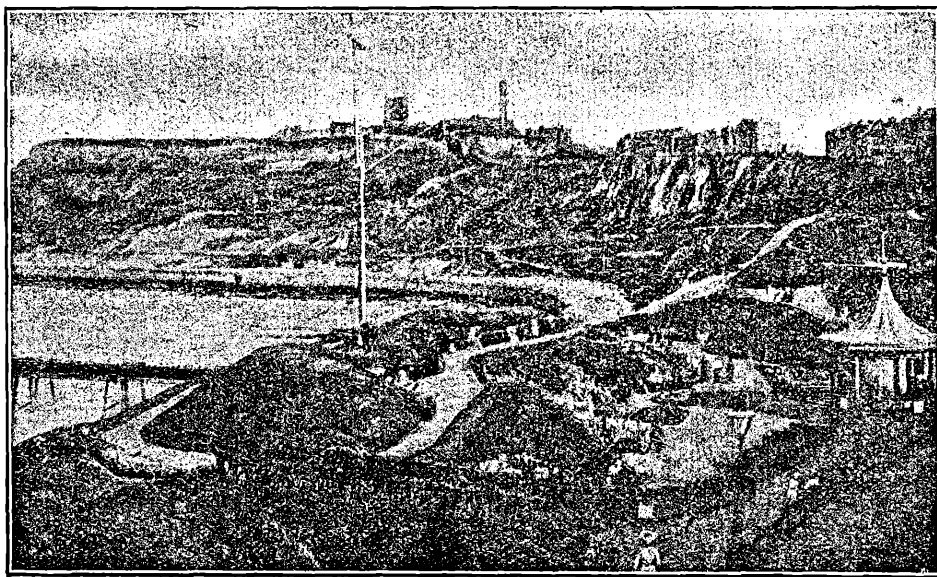
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REV. G\*\*\*\*\* A\*\*\*\*\* hails from the North, where he is well-known and highly esteemed as a capable and successful circuit minister. It only seems like yesterday since his ordination service, and yet he will soon have been a quarter of a century in the ministry. He is, we should say, a good all-

round man, with special aptitude for getting on the spiritual work of his stations. He is just completing six years on one of the most important stations in the North of England; and if any man has had a more prosperous term during that time in our ministry, he is to be envied. Evangelism is the work in which our friend takes perhaps the greatest delight; his ministry aims directly at the conversion of sinners. It is not surprising therefore that he is in deep sympathy with the work of our fathers, and finds great delight in the records concerning their work, their labours and successes. And yet curiously enough he is a keen politician, and holds strong views as to the duty of every Christian to work and vote for National righteousness. Above the middle height, and of slender build, he has borne well the strenuous work of the last four and twenty years. He knew in early life what it was to pass through a great sorrow, and thus acquired fitness for comforting those who mourn. In all his stations he has been highly esteemed and loved, and is an excellent type of the circuit minister who has made Primitive Methodism.

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MR. E. J\*\*\*\*\* is one of the familiar figures of Conference, and we are always glad to see him. He is not a hardy annual, but if all who have passed the vice-chair were as full of the fine enthusiasm, the spiritual fervour, and whole hearted loyalty of our friend, we should be disposed to vote for their having a seat every year in our annual assembly. Mr. J. is by no means so youthful as when he was elected to the Vice-Presidency, but he is still vigorous, and capable of splendid service. He has served the Church in many ways, but we always think of him as above all things a successful class leader. And no higher tribute could be paid to an officer of our Church than that. So much depends on our class leaders, and the combination of qualities that go to make a first rate leader is so rare, that when we meet a man of that type we are disposed to doff the hat in his presence. Next to his class the Sunday school has a large place in his thought and life; but space forbids any lengthy reference to his work in this regard. Is it not all written in the book of the Chronicles of his Circuit? Already our brother has delivered an eloquent and telling speech this Conference. It abounded in points, and was sufficiently witty to call forth the delighted laughter of the assembly. Loyal to his Church and his ministers, Mr.



THE NORTH BAY, SCARBOROUGH.

J. has found much joy in his association with Primitive Methodism, and may be trusted to give it his best as long as he lives. May he be long spared to carry on the work he so greatly loves.

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MRS. \*\*\*\*\* is one of the five lady delegates who are in this Conference, and none have more deserved the honour than she. She is well into middle life, tall, and has a most beautiful voice—sweet and womanly, and at the same time full of power. She has been a local preacher and class leader for many years, and has filled these positions with far more than average ability. We write of what we know in saying this. There is no pulpit, however influential, which she could not occupy with profit to her congregation. Her sermons are the outcome of a strong, but still womanly mind, of a ripe christian experience, of the deepest piety. She is exceedingly thoughtful, and gifted in utterance. Her language is of the sort that is never *outré*, but always refined, richly varied, and still natural. At times it becomes impassioned, but it never passes beyond her control. Her theme possesses her, and yet she never loses possession of herself. As a class leader she is a great success. Her class is large, and the members attend the meetings and are pleased to do so, as well they may. And what power she has in prayer. The writer thinks of her work in a great and long-continued revival in the church of which she is a member. What splendid service she rendered—service that was not only earnest and constant, but wise and full of tact. She has the divine genius of leading sin-stricken penitent souls into the kingdom. She has achieved the heights: in the discipline of suffering she has sounded the depths, but in all the changes her life has remained beautiful and consistent in its faith in God.

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REV. \*\*\*\*\* has more than once been described as the champion chapel builder. He has travelled thirty-one years, and may therefore be regarded as at the strength and prime of his ministerial life. How well he has deserved the name he has won is evident from the facts that he has built somewhere about twenty chapels, costing £27,000 and left on them an aggregate debt of about £7,000. So that he is not one of those who do that very easy thing, build chapels and leave them to be paid for by other people. He is

a salesman, and has something of the grit that characterises those who spring from the dales. He has not been heard in this Conference very much. His voice has the defect of not having what is known as the Conference ring. But he is an able debater all the same, as those know who have seen him at District Committees and District Meetings. The connexion has lost something that it might have had, had he been appointed to a Connexional Office, for he has all the prudence, combined with enterprise and courage, the insight combined with sound judgment, the application and power of hard and continuous work that constitute the successful man of business. Perhaps he may yet be appointed to be the head of a department. If he is, that department will prosper during his term of office.

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REV. \*\*\*\*\* is the youngest of the ministerial delegates at this Conference, and probably the youngest delegate whether ministerial or lay. But already he has made for himself something of a connexional name, and promises to fill a large and prominent place in the life of the denomination. He has travelled only eleven years, and yet he is the superintendent of one of the most powerful circuits in the North of England, and his district has been so much impressed with his gifts that at this early age he is the General Committee Delegate. Moreover, it is noticeable that he is sitting at the Conference tables among the secretaries. He has intervened in debate two or three times, and has always commanded an excellent hearing. This in itself is notable. Seeking to account for it, one feels it is to be attributed to more than one cause. There is a desire to hear him. And then his voice and manner of address are very commanding. Clear, distinct, penetrating, with plenty of carrying power, marked also by fulness and volume of tone, in the matter of a voice he is a king among his fellows. And he speaks as though he intended to be heard and understood. His contributions to the debates, it may be allowed, have not been perfect. They have had the one defect inevitable in a clever man, who, for the want of experience does not yet quite understand our annual assembly. His positions have all been sound and defensible, but whilst he has made his main position clear, he has not been careful, as it were, to defend the outworks, and of course the foe has readily seized on these points of attack, and to some superficial observers it may have seemed that

they have carried his main position, whereas, in reality it has remained intact. He has a fine physique, and a striking face, which however would be improved if the razor were not used so much, and a little hair were allowed to soften the features somewhat. His outlook is wide. Even in Conference debate that is perfectly apparent, and it is more apparent in his sermons and public addresses. He is constantly preparing himself for work in the sense that he is educating himself. But he is no slave to manuscript, and what energy he has he puts into all he does—preaching, business, reading, and all the rest of his work. A hundred such young men in our ministry would give our church a status it has never yet had, and make it a power it has never yet been.

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COUNCILLOR \*\*\*\*\* hails from one of the most beautiful places in all broad Yorkshire. Like many another such earthly Paradise it is dominated by the lord of the Manor, and not to the advantage of Nonconformity. Independence of mind and character is at a discount there, but Yorkshire fibre is not of the sort to yield altogether to unfair pressure of this kind, and so it comes to pass that our old friend for more than fifty years has stood by his own church's flag in the little country town where he lives. We have no chapel of our own there, and not a foot of land can be obtained at any price for the purpose. But the Friends own a very old meeting house, which they kindly rent to our society. The church has in it a fair membership and congregation, and a good Sunday school, and needless to say, our friend and his family, who are grown up and married, are the pillars of the church. His probity, his straightforwardness, and his independence have won for him the highest esteem of all, even of those who would be glad to convert him into an Anglican. This last, however, is not likely to happen. When a man has been a Primitive Methodist amidst conditions like those prevailing where he lives for more than half a century, and has received such recognition and honours as our church has to give her loyal sons and daughters, he is likely to die in the faith in which he has lived.

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MR. \*\*\*\*\* is one of a dozen of the best known laymen in our church, and one of the most greatly honoured. His hair and beard are white as the snow, and his face is one upon which it is pleasant to look. One feels that here is a

man at once righteous and benevolent, a man straightforward and kind. In his life there will be nothing doubtful or double; he hates deceit as the chief sin. He has been successful in business more than most. A son of the people, he started life as a working man, and got his foot on the first rung of the ladder by hard, persistent toil. The same indomitable perseverance has continued to characterise him. We could imagine him losing his patience with indolent men to the extent of sweeping them ruthlessly out of his way, just as we know that he gives his admiration and help ungrudgingly to everyone who is prepared to do his level best in useful work. How much Primitive Methodism in the great Yorkshire town in which he lives owes to him only a few men know. But when he was a working man, with a small wage and with no savings, we have heard that he gave two shillings per week for a year to a cause that he wanted, had he been able, to give five pounds to at once; and as he has accumulated wealth, his gifts have been multiplied in a manifold manner. His gifts have not been confined to his own city. There are chapels elsewhere he has practically built, and costly organs he has presented, too, in other parts of the connexion. In all this he was helped by his partner in life, whose death not so long ago, left a great blank in his life. Our Zion owes much to such men, men who love her with all the strength of their heart, who serve her by all possible means and on every occasion that offers itself.

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REV. \* \* \* sits among that honoured section known as Representatives of Connexional Institutions, and is therefore prevented, save for one brief precious space of time, addressing the delegates. That disability is a loss to the Conference itself as well as to the person immediately concerned. Our friend would lead a stranger to conclude, judging simply by his personal appearance, that he was a doctor, a lawyer, or a commercial man in a large way of business. He is about middle height, and rather stout; but, unlike some stout men, he is full to overflowing with physical energy. He never makes one slow movement, and even as he sits in the Conference his face is always lit up with a kind of fire of energy. He is a North Countryman, but at present, and for some years, he has had a chapel in London. And no man in the ranks of our ministry has succeeded better as a minister. When he went to it his church was a new cause. It was really to make. True, he had good helpers as laymen, but there was the new building, with all the financial liability involved, and the mere nucleus of a membership. It is now one of the most flourishing causes in the metropolis, and no strange minister, whatever his abilities and reputation, can command as large a congregation as he in his own chapel. Aged and necessitous local preachers all over the connexion have reason to be thankful for his ministry; and his Committee know that his department is managed in the most business-like manner possible. It could hardly be otherwise with such a smart looking man, and his preaching is characterised by many excellencies. It is thoughtful, full of points, and delivered in a manner that makes it both interesting and impressive.

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REV. J. W. V. \* \* \* is one of the younger members of the Conference. Although he has his spurs to win in that august assembly, in the wider field of his own District he has already made for himself a very good position. His station is as extensive perhaps as any Home Station we have, containing more than twenty places, so that, as he humorously remarked at a public meeting the other night, if he requires a change of air it is only necessary to plan himself at the other end of his station. The fact that he sits at the official table indicates that he has already become known to the authorities who regulate these things as a man of some exceptional ability. His large circuit would, in some men's charge, very speedily get out of hand; but this superintendent is a master of detail, and the whole machinery, from the Quarterly Meeting down to the humblest Committee, moves like clockwork, and the master-hand is on every part. He comes, we believe, of a Primitive Methodist family, and was educated at Elmfield College. His executive faculty is large, and he is a trifle restless when there is no call upon his energies. The head is round and well balanced; forehead high, and the dark brown hair has mostly disappeared; nose of good size and well-formed, with nostrils indicating full breathing capacity; brown pointed beard and mustache; rather full lips, and eyes dark blue. As he stands in the pulpit he strikes you as little, if any, above the middle height, and a favourite attitude is one in which the hands are placed almost akimbo; this is probably to some extent natural, as it did not look at all objectionable. As a speaker he is easy and natural, with a tendency to the oratorical. His taste is balanced between the love of beauty and forcefulness, and he can paint a picture of some historical period in telling epigrammatic phrase. His eager, active, sanguine temperament, and his faith in human nature and the power of the Gospel, will lead him to take a hopeful view of things. There is nothing pessimistic about him, and he will carry among his twenty or thirty churches a bright, breezy courageous spirit, that is almost bound to spell success.

#### Wymondham.

This circuit is engaged in missioning fresh places, and contemplates building three additional chapels in villages where there is no Nonconformist interest of any kind. One of these chapels is now in course of erection at Morley. Whit-Monday was a grand time. The day was beautifully fine. Many friends from the town and villages came together to assist at the stone-laying. The senior station steward presided at the service. Rev. A. T. Wardle gave the address. Stones were laid by Mrs. Riches, who laid £5 thereon, Mrs. J. R. Smith, £5 5s.; Mrs. Gooch for the Wymondham Ladies Sewing Class, £5; Mrs. Wardle, £5; Mrs. Whiant, £4; Miss Stone, £5 5s.; Mr. White for Silfield Society, £5; Mr. Neal for Sutton Society, £6; Mr. Bird for Wymondham Bible Class, £5; and by Mr. Banham, £2. Several bricks were laid also, and smaller donations given bringing the stone-laying sum up to £57. After tea a public meeting was held in a barn (kindly lent). Mr. S. Dann presided. Addresses were given by Revs. A. T. Wardle, W. H. Lawson, and W. Parry, Congregationalist. The monetary result of the day's proceedings was £63 5s., which with other sums make £81. We are hoping to raise at least three-fourths of the entire outlay.

## PRIMITIVE METHODIST TABLE TALK.

A LAYMAN, who once filled with distinction the office of Vice-President of the Conference, arrived in Scarborough late last week. On his way to the Conference Chapel he called at a newsagents for a 'Daily News.' 'All gone, sir.' He then asked if they had a London Leader. 'Yes, sir,' was the immediate reply. To the visitor's immense delight the newsagent handed him a copy of the new *Primitive Methodist Leader*.

\* \* \*

THE future lies pre-eminently with that church which can furnish its pulpits with men who, with the sweet blending of passion and intelligence, can most convincingly present the gospel of redeeming love.

See Prof. A. L. Humphries' leading article.

\* \* \*

THE Rev. E. Ball, at the Friendly Society's annual meeting, revealed himself in a new light. The time and attention he had evidently devoted to the Actuary's Report was an astonishment to his brethren. Hitherto the Rev. P. Peacock has held the wreath, but a new competitor has arrived. Mr. Ball's presentation of the condition of the Society's funds was one that brought great relief to some and much disturbance to others. Result: a committee to enquire whether these things are so.

\* \* \*

THE news soon spread that the Conference was not to have the pleasure of the Rev. R. Bryant's presence. Mr. Bryant is again unfortunately ill. Much sympathy was privately and publicly expressed, and hopes were cherished that the Connexional Treasurer would soon be fully restored.

\* \* \*

'HE has worked five days a week with his apron on.' Such were the words uttered by Rev. James Pickett on the first morning of the Conference. A stranger coming in just at that moment would have concluded that the speaker was apologising for the absence of one of our honourable delegates. Not so. The words were uttered in no apologetic tone—the tone was that of a proud boast, proceeding from a man who had a rare quality to commend. It was one of the side-lights of the work of our returned missionary President—the Rev. G. E. Butt. The unanimous election of Mr. Butt to the Presidency was a fine tribute to fine qualities.

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'PRIMITIVE METHODISM requires for its pulpits men whom the common people will hear gladly.' See Prof. A. L. Humphries' leading article.

\* \* \*

THE platform constructed for the Conference officials this year is very small, and not more than four or five persons can with convenience be comfortably seated upon it. The effect of this is, as our brethren delight to call it, that the Conference is 'on the floor of the house.' There is an advantage in this arrangement, inasmuch as the debating and interesting elements are spread over a much wider area, to the betterment of the Conference.

\* \* \*

No one could stand opposite the front of the Conference Chapel at the close of a session and watch the hundreds of people leaving without having a deep mark made upon him concerning the social character of Primitive Methodists to-day. It is a delightful feature that so many of our well-to-do families made the Conference a mecca.

\* \* \*

THE 'Scarborough Mercury' states that every eighth person in Scarborough is either a member or an adherent of the Primitive Methodist Church. The 'Mercury' is wide-awake, and is paying much attention to Conference proceedings.

\* \* \*

REV. HENRY J. PICKETT secured an early success in the Conference. His nomination of Mr. E. C. Rawlings for the Vice-Presidency was well done. The contest was expected to be a close one, and so it proved.

\* \* \*

THERE were many expressions of regret that Mr. W. P. Hartley's health might preclude him being present at the Conference. Diligent enquiries were made day by day as to his condition, and as the days passed, fears became stronger that he would not be coming. He was, however, observed to arrive on Saturday evening, much to the gratification of all.

\* \* \*

'TO-DAY there is no business to which a Methodist Quarterly Meeting addresses itself which needs to be done with a graver sense of responsibility than the recommendation of young men for ministerial work.' Prof. A. L. Humphries.

\* \* \*

A VERY warm greeting was extended to the Rev. James Travis as he walked down the aisle of the Con-

ference Chapel. Mr. Travis's presence in our ecclesiastical courts is always welcome. No man lives more in the affection of the Church than he.

\* \* \*

HAS not Mr. Thomas Lawrence beaten all previous records? The African Missionary Treasurer, in an aside, told the Conference that he had attended twenty-eight Conferences, at twenty-five of which he had been a delegate.

\* \* \*

THE Rev. W. C. Trevelyan Parker has had the honour conferred upon him of being appointed Chairman of the Executive Council of the National Endeavour Union. Mr. Parker is an old member of the Council, and has rendered good service.

\* \* \*

THE Revs. J. H. Rose, of East Dereham, A. J. Wigley, of Liverpool, and Miss Bulmer, of Chester-le-Street, have been again elected to membership on the National Endeavour Executive Committee.

\* \* \*

THE friends of the New Central Church at Bishop Auckland will be glad to learn that the trustees have just let their schoolroom to the County Council as a pupil teachers' centre at a rental of £110 per annum.

\* \* \*

PROFESSOR PEAKE's article in the first issue of the 'Leader' was effectively quoted in the Conference during the discussion on the Sunday School Report.

\* \* \*

MR. C. M. LUKE, the New Zealand delegate, has paid a compliment to the Conference delegates. Mr. Luke informs me that in the Australasian Methodist Conference there is as good a quality of men as is to be met with in any part of the world. 'But,' said he, 'this Conference is equal to that.'

\* \* \*

'HUGH MORRIGILL: Street Arab,' by Joseph Ritson, has just been issued by the Book Room. A review warmly appreciative of Mr. Ritson's book has been contributed by the Rev. R. Wilson, M.A., in the Motherwell 'Speaker.' The book is well got up, and is published at 3s. 6d. It will be remembered that 'Hugh Morrighill' appeared as a serial in the 'Aldersgate,' and doubtless many persons will be pleased now to obtain the story in its permanent form.

\* \* \*

THE 1906 Convention of the Scottish National C. E. Union has been fixed for April 14-17 (Easter Week) at Kilmarnock.

\* \* \*

By an inadvertence the name of the Rev. John Welford was given in our last issue as having seconded the Rev. H. Yooll's nomination for the Presidency of Conference. It should have been the Rev. William Welford.

\* \* \*

FROM West Africa we learn that the Roman Catholic Church is maintaining her position in that part of the Continent. Cameroons has been made the seat of a German Roman Catholic Bishop, and at Fernando Po, the town of Santa Isabel now has the presence of the Bishop of Tignia and 'Vicario Apostolico de Fernando Po.'

\* \* \*

MUNICIPALLY, Santa Isabel is receiving accessions of Spanish residents, and additional shops and hotels, with a new Technical School have been erected on the west side of the town. The government has lifted Santa Isabel to the rank of a 'Cindad.'

\* \* \*

THE *Primitive Methodist Leader* for next Thursday June 29th, will be a Conference Special, the price being Twopence. See announcement for contents. If you are not a subscriber, order the *Leader* of your newsagent at once. An order form is printed in this issue.

THE LISTENER.

A Periodic List of Ministerial Changes and Engagements will be published in the 'Leader.' The information sent to the Editor should state, in the case of Engagements, both the present and the future Circuits. The First List will appear soon after Conference.

#### Lincoln First.

Newark Road Sunday School Anniversary was celebrated on Sunday and Monday. We had most successful services. The Rev. T. McKenzie, of Peterborough, a former minister of the circuit, drew crowded audiences. His powerful sermons and charming solos materially contributed to the interest of the services.

On Sunday afternoon the Annual Scholars' Service was held under the genial presidency of Mr. S. Horton, the senior superintendent, who is also for the second year in succession the President of the Lincoln Sunday School Union. The singing and recitations were excellent. The pastor (Rev. J. Watson Grayson) and Rev. T. McKenzie also took part.

The annual tea was well patronised on Monday. The public meeting was presided over by Mr. C. Sneath. Revs. McKenzie, J. Keightley, and J. W. Grayson took part.

The proceeds were nearly £20, a sum well in advance of last year, mainly due to the efforts of Messrs. Robinson and Pawson, who collected over £11 in donations.



## OUR PARLIAMENTARY LETTER.

MANY members of the House of Commons met on Monday last at the Garden Party, or rather, Afternoon Party given by their Majesties at Windsor Castle, and among one group of Members the remark was made, 'Would it not be a splendid thing if the King could by some means set on foot a movement for the reduction of armies?' It is an interesting point, and a perusal of the figures appertaining to the various countries shows how much we in the United Kingdom are to blame. The following figures, which have been presented to the House of Commons show the trend of expenditure by the different powers:—

## GREAT BRITAIN (including India).

In the year	1880-1881	...	£34,758,920
" "	1890-1891	...	£36,652,133
" "	1901-1902	...	£110,113,843
" "	1902-1903	...	£87,805,591
" "	1903-1904	...	£57,783,885
" "	1904 1905	...	£53,193,100

## FRANCE (voted in the Budget).

In the year	1880	£29,396,364
" "	1890	£28,416,662
" "	1901	£27,774,581
" "	1902	£28,664,000
" "	1903	£27,593,478
" "	1904	£27,053,196

## GERMANY (Voted in the Budget).

In the year	1880	£18,505,000
" "	1890	£35,975,000
" "	1901	£34,005,129
" "	1902	£32,686,340
" "	1903	£31,889,455
" "	1904	£31,883,000

## RUSSIA (Voted in the Budget).

In the year	1880	£21,074,000
" "	1890	£25,346,000
" "	1901	£36,067,333
" "	1902	£35,848,726
" "	1903	£36,647,089
" "	1904	£40,860,000

## JAPAN (Voted in the Budget).

In the year	1882	£858,811
" "	1890-1891	£1,271,316
" "	1901-1902	£4,955,635
" "	1902-1903	£4,699,510
" "	1903-1904	£4,217,196
" "	1904-1905	£4,151,539

Then, too, our navy expenditure is simply enormous. There was a time when it was considered quite sufficient that we should have the strongest navy in the world. Then some one set up the standard that we must be equal to any two navies belonging to other powers. Now there are men who glibly talk of the 'three-power' standard. This mad competition ought to stop. We profess to be the most Christian power in Europe. Our navy and army are for defence, not offence. Yet look at our navy expenditure in additions only as contrast to other countries.

During the five years ending December 31, 1905, the additions to the great navies of the world have been as follows:

Country.	Tonnage.	Cost.
United States	154,184	£14,663,817
France	178,322	£17,589,215
Germany	198,561	£18,830,704
Russia	267,586	£23,836,892
Great Britain	601,755	£46,712,123

It will be observed that France, Germany, and Russia together have constructed or added 644,469 tons, a total very little more than Great Britain's single addition.

Incidentally these figures bear evidence and strong testimony for Free Trade.

It will be noticed that the additions made by our own country cost about £7 15s. per ton; Russia's additions cost about £9 per ton; the additions by Germany and France cost about £10 per ton, and in the case of the United States the cost works out to about £9 10s. per ton,

## GENERAL AND LEGAL.

All communications for this column should be addressed to HISTORICUS, The Lodge, East Acton, London, W.

## GENERAL.

RITU 'Explain the phrase 'Nonconformist Conscience,' and state how it came into use?' It arose from a correspondence in the *Times* newspaper relating to the position of Mr. Parnell and the Irish party in which the late Rev. Hugh Price Hughes took part with much vehemence. It was intended as a missile to express the contempt of Mr. Hughes' opponents for his conduct and that of his associates. He 'snatched it to his breast.' 'I thank you,' he said, 'for that word,' and began proclaiming it throughout the land. It describes the righteous indignation of Free Churchmen whenever anything dishonourable happens in public life or persons of distinction associate themselves with practices injurious to the public weal or when liberties are attacked. Free Churchmen themselves protest vigorously against it.

CENTENARY 'What is the correct date of the commencement of the Primitive Methodist Church?' Hugh Bourne, the Founder, wrote in 'Notices' of his own life as follows:—'My P.M. course commenced 25th December, 1800, and from July, 1801, to July, 1807, it increased 743 members, so mightily did the Lord own the P.M. course. I was put out of the Wesleyan Society June 27th, 1808, and from July 1808 to July 1811, it had a decrease of 80 members.' The first camp meeting after his expulsion was held on Sunday, July 17th, 1808. The previous Sunday, July 10th, 1808, is fixed by Hugh Bourne himself as the date of founding our Church—and the place at which it was commenced Hugh Bourne himself states to be Wootton-under-Weaver.

## LEGAL.

JOHN DAY 'If a Trustee, holding Connexional property on the Model Chapel Deed, be adjudicated a bankrupt, does he thereby cease to be a Trustee?' No, bankruptcy is a disqualification and a ground for removal, but until he be removed by competent authority, such as a Court of Law, he remains a Trustee, notwithstanding his bankruptcy.

ALLOA 'We have a vacancy upon our Trust, occasioned by the death of a Trustee, and we wish to increase the number of the Trust beyond 20 when filling up this vacancy. Can this be properly done?' Yes, since the last Trustee Act, which enables continuing Trustees on a vacancy occurring, either to increase or decrease the number of Trustees. The Model Deed limits the number of Trustees to 20, but of course the Act is of greater force than the Deed.

QUILL PEN 'Can our Connexional property be rated so that Trustees may be made to pay rates?' Only property duly registered with the Registrar General as a place of religious worship and exclusively used for religion is exempt. All other property is liable, though belonging to Trustees and used in connection with our church; but it is not the custom to rate it, and any attempt so to do would occasion enormous public indignation among Free Churchmen. Where, however, profits are made, Trustees can hardly expect to be supported in claiming exemption. It should be always remembered that Ecclesiastical property is altogether legally different from Free Church property, and has special advantages over it. The struggle of the public authorities has been to do justice to Nonconformity by granting them as an act of courtesy, many of the privileges enjoyed by the State Church. We ought, however, to enjoy many of the privileges we do enjoy as a right, and not as a courtesy.

CONNEXIONAL MISSIONS.  
OSWESTRY.

THIS fine old town gains its name as the reputed scene of the death of St. Oswald the Martyr, king of Northumbria. It is situated on the Welsh border, and for long centuries witnessed the constant struggles of Saxon and Celt. The ancient charters of the Borough go back to the reign of Richard II. in 1398, and are in a very fine state of preservation. We have a strong church and a large number of intelligent, earnest, sturdy officials, and no church has a finer status or more promising outlook.

For some time I had looked forward with eager hope to the mission, as it was not my first visit—the only discounting fear was that the season was too far advanced for such a purely agricultural centre. From the first Sunday, however, I felt success was coming. In the morning a considerable number came out in quiet, yet awfully sublime moments for full surrender. Everything was laid at the feet of God, and it is ever the true path to victory. From this point every subsequent service was an increasing success, until before the end the church was closely packed.

The week-day afternoon Bible Readings were remarkably well attended, the attendances more than doubled—although we started with a large number. Ministers and members of other churches, and a few of the most influential residents, supplemented the splendid attendances of our own people. Some handsome tributes were paid to the value of the work. The evening services were more than usually powerful—from far and near the people came, and the glory of the Lord was revealed to us.

The second Sunday was a red-letter day, the light, the splendour, the glory of God's own presence were in indubitable evidence. Quite twenty to thirty in the evening came out for Christ. Among the number were a lady publican and another person notorious in the district, who, through years of sinning, has earned an unenviable sobriquet. Fine, bright, enthusiastic young men from the shops, and equally splendid young women, gave themselves up for Christ. The service can never pass out of memory. I shall be much surprised if some of these young people are not heard of in after years as heroes and heroines of the Faith. This service was concluded three times over, but each time only to begin again because still others were coming out for Christ.

The Shropshire Yeomanry were encamped in the town, and many of the young fellows were in the streets, so at the close of each evening service a grand number of us, full of the inspiration of our hour with God, went to the Bailey Head and sang some of the old choruses of a living Methodism, and not a few of these military cadets were deeply impressed, although none were able to come to the services. On the second Monday Mrs. Perks (Councillor G. Perks, J.P.) and a few other ladies gave a tea as a thankoffering to God and in recognition of the work. A large number sat down.

It is quite a mistaken notion—surely it is not a serious thought that God cannot save in summer days. I have been privileged to see results as real, as large, as beautiful as in the winter. If the work is of God why should it not be so?

I would like to acknowledge the solos given by Miss Price, Miss Venables, Miss Phillips and Mr. Ben Roberts, and the constant sympathy of the Rev. W. H. Mason, and again in sincere humility, but with gratitude more warm than words can express, the Holy Spirit, by whom the benediction comes, and all the victories are won.—W. R. BIRD.

## West Hartlepool

On Sunday, June 4th, 1905, Mr. J. C. Hendy, of York, delivered two very fine discourses. In the afternoon the scholars, assisted by the choir, rendered a good programme of music, recitations, and dialogues, under the presidency of Mr. J. T. Alderson. On Monday, June 5th, a public meeting was held, when the Rev. C. Pettler gave an address on the Value of Sunday school work. The scholars again sustained the service in capital style.

The Hon. Sec., Mr. J. Armstrong, read his Annual Report, which shewed the school to be in a prosperous state. Teachers, 35; scholars, 308. Councillor R. Tweddle, in his usual happy way, presided over a large company. Supper was provided in the school-room, of which a very large number partook. Much credit is due to Mr. John Fenwick, conductor, and Mr. R. Bragey, organist, for the excellent singing, which was done in true Primitive Methodist style.

## Oldham Second.

Great and sincere sorrow has been recently caused in our Lees Road Church by the removal of three well known and highly esteemed members by death within three weeks. Mrs. Evans, who for many years was a devoted member and supporter of our church in the town, had been heavily afflicted for some months when the summons came. She was an unobtrusive and genuine Christian woman, whose love for the services of God's house never waned, and whose patience and faith and hope never faltered. In all her suffering there was a steadfast looking forward to the life exempt from pain, the life which is for ever with the Lord. A life of ever widening influence seemed to be opening up before Miss Minnie Jones. Two years ago she became a member with us, and never failed to witness a good confession. She displayed recently a more active interest in Church work than ever, and gave promise of a pious and devoted life. But a severe cold was followed by pneumonia, which proved fatal after only a few days' illness. Probably no member of our church was better known than Mrs. Cheetham, wife of Mr. S. Cheetham, junr., and daughter of Mr. John Holmes. For many years she was a scholar in the school, a valuable member of the choir, and a useful worker in many departments of church work. Unaffected in her goodness, and whole-hearted in her service she endeared herself to our church and congregation. Her long illness was borne with characteristic cheerfulness, and at its end she quietly 'fell asleep.' Our friends have gone from us, but they are still one with us in Jesus Christ. Death causes no real separations, but leaves the deeper fellowships of life undisturbed.

One family we dwell in Him,  
One church, above, beneath.

—JOHN SWINDEN.

## Mrs. Henry Bright Harris.

A brief but beautiful life reached its earthly close at Vine St., Coventry, on the morning of June 5th, when, after a swift, stern struggle with disease, the sweet spirit of Mrs. Annie Harris escaped its mortal clay to find its home in God. A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hancox, she was brought up under the influence of an evangelical ministry in the Established Church in this city. Two years ago, in May, 1903—she was married to Mr. Henry B. Harris, the son of the junior steward of the Coventry First circuit, and a model union it has been. Both husband and wife joined our Ford Street church under the writer's ministry. No cloud darkened the sky. Joys like flowers sprang up in their path, and there seemed every prospect of a long and happy life before them. But 'we know not what shall be on the morrow.'

On May day, but six short weeks ago, a little baby girl was born to them, and both mother and child for a time did well. But when the little flower had bloomed but one brief week it faded—the Lord called the little one to Himself. Then complications set in, and the life of the mother hung in the balance. After a few days the crisis seemed past, and hopes of recovery were entertained. Then hope was dashed again. The best skill and the tenderest nursing proved of no avail. Now we mourn her loss, and the young husband is smitten, stricken, and afflicted. May he be Divinely sustained and comforted.

We laid her to rest last Thursday in the beautiful city cemetery, the Rev. A. Wilkes conducting the service in the presence of hundreds of sorrowing friends, to whom she had endeared herself by her gentle, gracious, loving disposition. 'Annie—as we all called her—had seen but 24 summers. But she lives again—not only in the sinless land, but also in lives made better by her presence. She has left to husband and parents and friends the memory of an affectionate and truly Christly character, which we shall treasure till the day dawn and the shadows flee away.—ARTHUR WILKES.

## Birmingham Third.

The quarterly meeting, which was held on June 3rd, was a very happy gathering, and the following resolution was carried with perfect unanimity, 'That we place on record our high appreciation of the six years' faithful Christian service of our esteemed Minister, the Rev. J. Marcus Brown. We rejoice in the large measure of prosperity which God has been pleased to grant to us in giving us numerical, financial, and spiritual blessing; and we assure our minister of our heartiest wishes for his future prosperity and blessing. We trust that his new sphere of labour will be congenial, and that he may still be made a great blessing in the service of the Master.' The members of the meeting were photographed during the afternoon.

## North Sunderland.

At the little fishing village of Craster, the Whitsuntide festival was held on Whit Monday, June 11th. The Rev. J. E. S. Otty, M.A., B.D., Congregational minister of Alnwick, preached in the afternoon. This was followed by an open-air tea. A toy and sweet stall was well patronised by the children. In the evening a public meeting, presided over by Mr. R. W. Patten, the circuit steward, was addressed by Revs. J. E. S. Otty and E. Lucas. On the Tuesday, tea was provided for scholars, parents and friends in the grounds of Dunstanborough Castle. Financial proceeds £5.

## Sheffield Fifth.

The quarterly meeting of the Sheffield Fifth circuit was held yesterday at John Street. The Rev. P. Nume presided, and was supported by the principal officials of the churches in the circuit. Mr. Albert Clayton officiated as secretary. The numerical report presented by the chairman was of a highly satisfactory character, showing a substantial advance on the March report.

The circuit steward's balance sheet showed that all claims had been met and a balance of £14 remained in the hands of the treasurer. During the quarter £100 had been paid off the debt on the Hogdson Street property, and arrangements were made for aggressive work during the next quarter, including a special mission at John Street by the Rev. W. R. Bird, the connexional evangelist. It was resolved to thoroughly renovate the minister's house.

The approaching Torrey-Alexander Mission was discussed, and it was resolved to suspend all the week-night services during the month of September in order to allow the members an opportunity to support the mission. The thanks of the meeting were cordially given to Mr. J. Lawson for his efficient services as representative of the circuit of the recent district synod at Rotherham.

The official invitation will be given to the ministers at the next quarterly meeting.



# TOMMY PRINGLE AND THE CONFERENCE.

By RAMSAY GUTHRIE.

(Author of "On God's Lines," "Black Dyke," &c.)

## II.—AT THE CONFERENCE.

TOMMY was on the platform, tramping up and down with his carpet-bag. The journey had been accomplished successfully and he was waiting to be met.

By-and-by the platform cleared.

Tommy had his eyes on 'a man in regimentals.' He was chaffing with the porters and accosting an occasional passenger.

To Tommy he turned at last.

'Excuse me, sir, but I am looking for a gentleman named Pringle, Councillor Pringle. Are you . . .

'Pringle's me name,' cried Tommy, relieved to be found at last, 'An' thoo'll be me host for the Conference, Alderman Fraser, J.P.?'

The gentleman in regimentals smiled.

'No, sir,' he replied. 'I'm the Alderman's footman, one of them. Please let me take your bag. The carriage is waiting.'

Tommy had thoughts of Marget Ann and plucked up courage.

In the carriage he was whirled through the busy streets, and on and on to the road 'fornext' the sea, and then, in front of what seemed to him a palace the horses stopped.

The footman opened the carriage door, and Tommy found himself in an entrance hall shaking hands with his host. The footman passed him with the carpet-bag.

Following the Alderman, in the drawing room he was introduced to the ladies, the Alderman's wife and daughter.

Shy was Tommy and ill-at-ease, but in less than ten minutes, the three had banished his nervousness and made him feel at home. They accepted his vernacular as if it were the English language in its purest form. Occasionally they were baffled, but Tommy was never permitted to know. The Alderman was full of questions of the schemes and methods of the Council over which his guest presided. Mrs. Fraser approached him on the domestic side and heard about Marget Ann and all the tribe of the Pringles. The daughter of the house had artistic tastes, and Tommy was marched around to admire her drawings and paintings. Tommy was so transparent that the three could read his soul. They had expected a guest of another order, and they were more than pleased to have a Northern pitman.

When Tommy went up to 'dress for dinner,' they looked at each other and smiled. All their imaginative delineations had been hopelessly at fault. Not even in one particular did the original accord with the creation of fancy. With the tact of real refinement they adjusted themselves to the unexpected situation, and Tommy was made to feel that they had been waiting for him with genuine pleasure.

'How charming!' Miss Fraser exclaimed, when she was alone with her parents. 'How blissfully unsophisticated he is! How deliciously natural!'

The Alderman was pacing up and down with his hands clasped behind him. This was an odd trick of his when his brain was suddenly excited.

'He'll be a great man in his own district,' he observed. 'The miners will be in the majority overwhelmingly, and of course, place and power must come to the best of the class. Methodism discovers the best. The proof you have in the Miners' members of the House of Commons. Primitive Methodists, I understand, most of them are.'

The mother intervened with a smile.

'How pathetic the dialect is! The homely sing-song is bewitching, and his face is a mirror of the movements of his mind. I confess I wondered what type of man our delegate would be. I am glad we have a pitman. We shall have an easy and pleasurable time with our guest.'

Tommy had been conducted to his room by another man in regimentals. The sight of his carpet-bag reminded him of Marget Ann and all the loved ones at Pointer Top.

'Will thoo kneel aside me while I says a bit prayer?' and without waiting for a reply, and never dreaming that the other might object, he knelt at the side of the bed and audibly uttered his praises and prayers.

The valet waited till Tommy had 'dooked' his face and 'parted' his hair, and then led him back to the drawing-room.

'Now, Mr. Pringle, you must take me in to dinner,' his hostess said, rising, and taking his arm.

He was trembling from head to foot. Crossing the hall, he was reminded of the days in the long ago, when Marget Ann and he were sweethearts, and when they 'linked' in sequestered walks.

The dinner was a complete success. He did not know that the man in regimentals deserved the praise. Without his knowledge the valet had guided him through the maze of dishes and plates, knives and forks, glasses and spoons.

Tommy 'thowt nowt about the Reception' in the evening. Driven to the gaily-decorated and brilliantly-

lighted hall, he was 'petrified' to hear his name announced, with all its flourishes, by one of the gents in the gilded coats and black silk stockings. What was expected of him under such circumstances of publicity he did not know. He was relieved to find that nobody seemed to hear. The scene was gorgeous and gay. The Frasers, he found, were greeted on every side, and the Alderman was most punctilious in introducing his guest to his friends.

In all the throng Tommy found but one familiar face. It was the face of a minister, who had travelled the circuit years ago.

'Aa, Mr. Johnson, I is pleased to see tha!' he cried, gripping the outstretched hand, and giving it a 'tarrickle wag.' My sartes! thoo doos keep fresh! . . . This is a bonny carry-on,' he whispered, with a nod at the band and the wave of his hand at the crowd. 'Is a Reception alwes a norration o' this sort? I was niver at one afore, an' it kind o' gi'es me the creeps. Thoo laughs, but it's nae laughin' matter. Man, I feel like a backslider at a worldly gannin-on like this. When will the singin' begin an' the prayin'?'

Mr. Johnson explained the procedure common to Receptions. Eyes of growing horror were fixed on the minister's face.

'Weel, I think nowt on't!' was Tommy's contemptuous verdict. 'I thowt that we wad aall be received by the Lord, an' that we wad hev a champion prayer-meetin'. I is grieved. The thing's heathenish! Not even one hymn. Not a solitary prayer! I waddent wonder if lots o' these dissent gan back to the beggarly elements o' the world. I'm proud to say we've niver had nowt like this at Pointer Top. We keep religion to the front. By! oor Marget Ann wad hev been vexed'

Miss Fraser expostulated and reasoned with him.

'You see,' she said, 'the opportunity is given to-night for people to become acquainted, and to renew already created friendships.'

'Hinney!' was his reply, 'there's nae better way for folks to get acquainted than to say their prayers tegither. Theatricals an' concertinals 's queer carryin's-on for folks that want to flee from the wraath to come.'

The Reception was forgotten when the Conference was in swing. 'Like a lord' he was driven to the chapel, the people wondering who the great and mighty man could be. By-and-by his name was known, and all unconsciously he became one of the few in whom the interest centred.

The grand swell of the opening hymns, the fervency of the prayers, the solemn reading of the word appealed to the soul of him. Such a gathering of seers and saints, fathers and brethren, he had never witnessed. The singing excited him to ecstasy, the prayers transported him to heaven.

He had eyes and ears for everything. Leaning forward, he caught every word. What a subject for the psychologist he would have made!

There were three candidates for the Presidential chair. To Tommy 'one was as good as another, an' aall were alike.'

'By Hinnies! if I had my way, I wad elect the three o' them. I divvent like to mak' fish o' one an' flesh o' the t'others. It's aall reet for the one wi' the luck, but it's bad behaviour to the t' other two. Ye say, I'll hetta vote for one?' He was whispering with his neighbour. 'Why, then, I gi'e me vote to Number One. He was forst i' the field.'

For the Vice-Chair there were several nominations. Tommy was distracted anew.

'I divvin't like to slight ony on ye,' he murmured, 'but Number One it'll hetta be. He'll think he has the maist right.'

There were other positions to be filled, and from all parts of the Connexion candidates were forthcoming.

'I had nae idea we had sich a collection o' men o' mark. I alwes thowt the supers we've had were the picked 'uns, but, to hear the taalk, they're aall tip-toppers. Ye taalk aboot gifted ministers! There's nae gifts they hevvent got. We've a Connexion o' wonders, it seems to me. . . . There's lots o' them 'll hev achin' hearts after this electioneerin', an' they'll need aall the gracs they can find to gan on exercisin' their gifts. Poor clivvar chaps!'

All the proceedings were a series of astonishments to Tommy. When he heard of the hundreds of chapels, worth millions of pounds, of the hundreds of thousands of members and scholars, of the publishing house, with its output and profits, of the orphanage and colleges and the conglomeration of institutions and funds and committees, he opened his eyes in ever-increasing amazement.

'I'll hetta tell Marget Ann,' was his soliloquy, 'that Pointer Top's a pee-dee to the whole Connexion. Its a eye-opener comin' to Conference. When I tells them hoo things stand, they'll think I's touched i' the upper

story. I'll need aall me reputation to get the truth believed.'

To Tommy they were days and nights of glorious life. He was always there for the opening of the Sessions.

'Noo, thoo'll hetta mak' them horses trot, me canny man,' he would say to incite the coachman. 'It'll niver dae for me to gan slotherin' in after time. Chaps that hetta waalk can find an excuse. But me, there's nae excuse for a carriage-man like me.'

When the days were fine, at the adjournment of the Conference for dinner or tea, the Alderman and his wife and daughter would be waiting for Tommy to drive him around to see the sights. His simplicity and naturalness had taken them completely, and they revelled in his recitals of the proceedings.

And he had letters to write, and, novelty of novelties, at the instigation of Miss Fraser, he deluged Pointer Top with picture-postcards.

His carpet-bag was under the scrutiny of the man in regimentals. Tommy's difficulties with his dickies and cuffs were solved by the handy-man. He 'might hev been a bairn the way he was finnicked on wi'.'

The fly in the ointment of Tommy's pleasure was the demonstration in which he was to take a part. Even Marget Ann would have pitied him when he stood before the thousands, but she would have hugged him with pride of possession at the end.

'Why, friends,' he laughed with a tremor, 'ye'd better clap on a bit afore I start, because ye'll not be inclined to clap when I've done. To put a chap like me to a job like this is the one mistake o' the Conference Com-a-tee. I think nowt o' gannin' doon a pit shaft, but comin' up them pulpit steps was the aakwarddest an' aafullest thing I've iver attempted. High-up places mak's me giddy. Me brain feels like a velosopede at the last lap. Hooiver, I's here, an', barrin' that Reception, I reckon we've had a champion time. Ye get the blinkers taken off when ye come to Conference. I was alwes a tarrible Primitive. Hoo I'll be able to abide these other bits o' chorches that thinks we're nowt an' naebody's mair nor I can tell. It's fair ridic'lus for them to think they can stand aside us. Noo, I's only haalf-a-chairman, an' the smaaller haalf, an', accordin'-lie, after his big speech, a few remarks 'll dae for me. Noo, ye see, the Connexion's made up o' rich an' poor. The chairman speaks for the rich, an' I can speak for the poor. He'll be a millionaire. I'm a miner. That's the distinction atween us. Noo, I niver had any idee that there were sae mony rich Primitives. I've had me eye on them durin' the Conference, an' I'm pleased to see that they're as keen for singin', an' not above a few repeats, an' just as fond o' prayin', an' not above a few Amens, as their poorer comerades. Noo, that's as it should be. It'll be a bad day for the Connexion if the money-men keep their seats when the singin's on, an' stop i' the porch till the prayin's finished. By hinnes! if all the millionaires were like the Primitive millionaires, what a time there wad be in England! We'll hetta keep believin'. An' in the meantime we'll hetta peg away to get the poor convarted. When I gets back to Pointer Top I mean to invite the District Cooncil to the class-meetin', an' the members o' the Board o' Guardians to a special prayer-meetin'. I feel like a revival, an' if we aall feel like that, there'll be such a flare up i' the nation as niver was. Noo, I'd better stop. There's a bonny good feelin' i' the meetin', and it's safe to predict that it's better on afore.'

Tommy was immortalised. He had carried the people by storm. His homely pitmatic, his fascinating sing-song, his sweet simplicity, his complete devoutness won every heart. Men and women cried and laughed. Cheers for the miner rang through the hall, and when, at length, spontaneously as it seemed, the lines broke out:

'The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets,  
Before we reach the heavenly fields  
Or walk the golden streets.'

the tension was relieved in song.

It was the last day but one of the Conference before Tommy intervened in the course of the business. He entered a protest and made a suggestion. Tommy found the Agenda dry, and the 'chaps wi' nowt to say were takin' their time in sayin' it.'

'Mr. President,' he called, and at the sound of his voice there was instant silence. 'Things 's tame this mornin', an' I've been thinkin' that religion's gettin' the go by wi' aall the sparrin' an' argeyin'. Let's hev a bit o' prayer, Mr. President. It wad lift things if one o' the millionaires wad lead us to the Throne o' Grace.'

'A good suggestion,' was the President's hearty response, 'but I can improve it. After the millionaire, the miner will pray.'

'I's willin', ejaculated Tommy. 'Noo, me lads, let us pray.'

Tommy averred that the prayers had cleared the air. He was one of the few who witnessed the signing of the Conference Journal.

'Why, hinney,' he replied when the President complimented him on his fidelity to his delegateship, 'I was here for the start an' I was detarmined to see the finish. I've lost nowt, I can tell ye. A fine tale I hev for oor Marget Ann an' the canny folks o' Pointer Top.'

There was no mistake, Tommy had been at the Conference.

[Next week, After the Conference will appear.]

## PERILOUS TIMES.

## A Public Meeting Conference Address.

BY REV. GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

*Delivered in Jubilee Chapel, Scarborough, on Thursday night, June 15th, 1905.*

WHETHER you will agree with all I shall say here to-night I cannot tell, but I think you will at least agree with this—that we are living in perilous and exacting times—times so strange and grave that one is almost tempted to enquire whether, instead of stepping forward into the twentieth century, as we have been supposing, we have not in reality stepped back into the sixteenth, and stepped into France or Spain instead of remaining in England. Our Rulers have been smitten with an obliquity of vision which raises the most disquieting questions as to their knowledge of the A.B.C. of the Gospel, and the reality of their profession of the Christian religion.

A creeping paralysis has stricken them into impotence so far as well-doing is concerned, but has left them with a double and sinister power to work mischief. And one of the chief mischiefs is this—they have been able to mesmerise the majority of the population of the United Kingdom and secure their acquiescence in their policy of plunder and oppression.

More than nine years ago the country began a backward march; and driven on by the forces of re-action, that march has continued to this hour, with ever increasing speed and with ever accumulating disaster. When the march began the ears of the people were closed to reason and their eyes were shut against reality. But both ears and eyes have been gradually opening since then, and to-day they are staring with wild wonder upon the strange country in which they find themselves and they are startled and confounded by listening to forms of speech which they thought had become entirely obsolete in this land of the brave and the free. When, in the early days of this great re-action, the landowner was enriched out of the general taxation, there was hardly a murmur, and the murmurs there were, were soon drowned amid the wild shouts which ushered in a great and devastating war.

It was a 'Miner's war,' and therefore popular. It was not to be waged for gold fields or diamond mines, not for increase of territory nor the strengthening of empire. It was for equal rights for all, for increased and remunerative employment for white men, for the breaking down of an intolerable oligarchy, and the purification of a corrupt government. These were ideals fair and high, and worthy of the great name of England. And so we spent 250 million pounds, sacrificed over 20,000 lives, almost doubled our national yearly expenditure, taxed ourselves to the utmost, to meet the huge demands of war, and all for what?

For the establishment of a government much more wasteful and corrupt than the one it displaced for the enthronement of the foreign millionaire as the dictator of British policy; for the enrichment of the Rand-lord, who can hardly keep out of the workhouse on a profit of 180 per cent.; for the silencing of free speech; for the ostracism of the white man from the benefits his brothers died to secure; and for the crowning of this infamy by the introduction of slavery into the dominions of the king. Does not all this of itself create a very perilous situation, perilous to our honour and influence, and perhaps perilous to our very existence? For if we believe the Bible, we must also believe that when any government acts in defiance of the eternal laws of truth and equity and righteousness, it is putting itself out of harmony with the Divine will, it is using the wealth with which it has been invested only to disgrace it, and is therefore leading the nation to the brink of a precipice.

And in this case that I have named, is there not a departure from the laws of God, and a violation of the rights of men? Is it nothing that the rulers of this nation should again become dealers in flesh and blood—that a British Parliament in the 20th Century should belie the great traditions of our rule and should give its sanction to an ordinance which is an act of treason to the working classes of South Africa, and a high and intolerable insult to humanity at large. And what is far worse than the thing itself is the moral insensibility to the wrong, and indeed the complicity with the wrong of a great and historic party in the state, and the indecisive and shuffling attitude of the head of a great church.

When a national crime can be reduced to a 'regrettable necessity' there is something wrong with the moral vision. When any church can persuade itself that sin in any shape or form is a necessity, and can excuse itself from witnessing against it by washing its hands like Pilate and leaving the responsibility with others.

When any church does that, it has sold its Lord a second time, and has committed an act of treachery against religion, humanity, and God. And unfortunately the saddest thing of all is this—it is not the Episcopal church alone which takes this attitude. There are Free churches which barr the discussion of this and kindred subjects on the miserable plea that they are political questions, and the church must have nothing to do with politics.

I will have a word to say about that presently, but meanwhile, in taking up this attitude are they not themselves the most pronounced of politicians—for what is the reason they wish to shut out discussion? Is it not because they know that if discussion be admitted it means the condemnation of the political party with which they are allied? And this they cannot brook—they will gag even Jesus Christ rather than have their precious Unionism assaulted. They will stand by their party even though that party becomes (as it has become) a devotee of mammon, grovels in the dust before Bacchus, and allies itself with every sordid, selfish interest of wealth and fashion and time-serving and ambitious men.

Of all the mysteries and anomalies of the present time the Nonconformist Unionist presents us with the greatest, and one of the most disquieting and staggering discoveries I ever made in my life was to find we had a few amongst ourselves. How we came to rear them, or import them, and how they made their appearance in any shape or form on the inside of the democratic tariff wall which circles us about, is entirely beyond my ingenuity to discover. But that they are here is beyond dispute. There are a few examples with us, and a good many more examples amongst the other Free Churches,

I marvel that they are in, but being in, I am not anxious to turn them out, but I am supremely anxious to educate them. That a Nonconformist can be a Unionist at all is the most convincing proof that he needs educating. At present he is simply a contradiction, and a contradiction so open and glaring as to cause unpounded wonder.

For, consider what it all means from the standpoint of Dissent. This is the party which grievously oppressed our fathers, which fastened upon us gross and insulting disabilities, which shut up in prison and thought to extinguish our witness by the heavy hand of unrighteous laws; and when it was demonstrated that we were too much alive to be buried in the graves of infamy which had been dug for us by their ingenious hate, they thought we should apologise, like that pious monarch of blessed memory, Charles II., for being such an unconscionable long time in dying. And when we not only refused to die, but dared to ask for the concession to us of some of the elementary rights of citizens, they fought with a passion and a frenzy unmatched in Billingsgate against any concession whatever. And when, by the sheer force of numbers and persistent pleading, a few of our just demands were conceded, they were never conceded as part of our time inheritance, but in the language of Dr. Parker, we had to take them every one at the spear's point.

And then, having obtained so many of our rights, instead of continuing the fight to gain the rest we became the victims of a great delusion—the delusion, viz., that the Ethiopian changes his skin and the leopard his spots. And having persuaded ourselves that this impossibility had become an accomplished fact, great numbers amongst us voted for and put into power the party which is the lineal descendant of the oppressors of the seventeenth century, the party that has inherited both the traditions and the policy of those who think that Dissent ought not to be allowed to exist, or if it be allowed to exist it ought to be barely tolerated—it must live in a compound, and become an object either of pity or contempt.

This is the party which many in the Free Churches (being as it seems to me without adequate historical knowledge and having no historical imagination) thought had changed. And what is the result of this grand delusion?

There are unfortunately many results, but one result which concerns us most deeply is the notorious Education Acts of 1902-3—the monstrous birth from this unholy alliance between Dissent and its hereditary foes. An Act under which not only is Romanism endowed, but it receives its endowment under false pretences, which puts a new seal upon sectarian tests, and widens the area of their imposition and operation; which not only brands Dissent as an inferior thing, but encourages the teaching which says it is a sin; which employs sappers and miners to take away our foundations, and then with an amazing impudence presents us with the wage bill and asks us to discharge it; which inoculates our children with pernicious error and then asks us to pay the vaccination fee; which makes it possible for those we employ to teach our sons and daughters to despise our faith and to tell us that hell is the portion of Dissent in the world to come.

This, sir, is one of the grand results, and this is a characteristic sample of the fruits of Unionism; and I hope the Nonconformist Unionists like the flavour of it. And yet the authors of this infamous enactment must not be anywhere spoken against—especially by ministers. It is high treason for any of us to utter his voice on any subject which hurts the sensibilities of our friends—the enemy; we must take it lying down, and we must on no account preach about Passive Resistance.

I hope I am not devoid of patience, but I confess I am nearly out of patience with cant and ignorance like this; and I am nearly out of patience with it because it has no apprehension of the message and meaning of the Bible—it does not understand the spirit and genius of the Gospel of the Son of God. We are told we must not speak or agitate upon questions which are matters of debate in the political arena—that it is unseemly and improper to introduce a political illustration into a religious service, and that in the presence of even the most revolutionising and compromising proposals of parliament we must be dumb as death—silent as the grave.

Now, to this contention, so often heard from both friend and foe, we have a two-fold answer to make—an answer which I think needs to be made in the interests of religion and of common-sense.

1. And first, I want to ask where would the prophets have stood in the estimation of mankind, and what sort of an emasculated message would they have bequeathed to the world if they had acted upon this timid and unheroic policy? If Nathan, instead of bringing home to David the enormity of his sin, had excused himself from action on the ground that it was a political question, and would be an interference with the domestic policy of the court, what would we have thought about him? And what would we have thought about Elijah, if, instead of denouncing Ahab for the murder of Naboth and the robbery of his vineyard, he had gone with simpering speech and shrugging shoulders, and said, 'Ah, that is a matter of state policy upon which I am not competent to pronounce a judgment, and if you force me to say something, the only thing I can say is, that the action of the king was, perhaps, a 'regrettable necessity.'

If Isaiah had been untrue to his commission and had not interposed to direct aright Imperial policy; if Amos and Hosea had stifled their witness against the corruptions of the government and the vices of the ruling classes—where would they all have stood? Why, they would not have been messengers of God at all—their prophecy would have been a pretence, their life would have been an imposture and a lie. Instead of standing out on the pages of Holy Writ as high examples of nobility and courage, they would have been immortalised there as charlatans and crying sycophants, pilloried for every age, and scorned by every successive generation of men.

2. And then I want to ask this also—Are there not also political questions which are primarily questions of morals and religion? And have we nothing to do with these? Are we to have nothing to say about National Righteousness, the Supremacy of Conscience, and the sacred liberties and rights of men? Nothing to say especially when each of these is being menaced and assaulted by a re-actionary and conscienceless government. What are we here for as ministers and churches if we have to be silent in crises such as we have been passing through of late, and are still passing through? Are we to stifle our convictions and be false to the burden of the Lord because a Unionist government, or any government, chooses to walk in the crooked and subterranean paths of a diplomatic expediency

rather than on the high and open road of honour and justice and righteousness?

Oh, sir, the plea for silence at a time like this is a 'refuge of lies,' and we will not yield to it for a single moment. We will not only speak against, but we will passively resist the application of laws which infringe upon the sovereignty of conscience and invade the domain of God. And what else would you have us do? Men may sneer at Passive Resistance as they like, it is the only movement that has in it the promise of the future and the omens of Victory.

If it had never been started the Education Acts would have come to stay. There would never have been any talk of Compromise by the Bishops, nor of Amendment by the Liberal Party. There are many who do not agree with it, but they have no alternative policy. They will not fight in our ranks, and for this we would not care if they would only fight in the ranks of their own. But as far as we have been able to find out, they have done no fighting at all. Like Kuropatkin, they are masterly only in retreats.

We have no wish to antagonise any helpers in this war, and we would therefore say to all our friends, if you cannot join in the frontal attack along with us execute a flanking movement on your own account, or do something, however small, to show us where you are and that you appreciate the situation.

But whether our ranks be augmented or not, and however little of co-operation we may receive from others, one thing at least is certain, *This fight will go on.* It is a fight to a finish. It may take a long time to finish, but we have no manner of doubt that in the long run we shall remain victors of the field. And when the history of religion in the opening years of the 20th century comes to be written, it will be noted by the future historian that Passive Resistance, and Passive Resistance alone, saved the honour of Nonconformity in this crisis and redeemed from the peril of extinction the Protestant religion in England.

We will fight this, and we will fight other questions as well, in spite of the ecclesiastical bogey man who cries out 'No politics in the church.' Can we be silent and indifferent in view of the arrogance and aggression and recent triumph of the drink trade? At a time when judges and magistrates are uttering loud complaints as to the awful ravages of strong drink, is it a time for the church of God to call a halt and deprecate agitation?

Justice Grantham can tell us about being engaged for weeks together in dealing with heart-breaking crimes, 'husbands murdering their wives, and wives their husbands, and fathers their sons, and friends their own best friends, all through the maddening influence of excessive drinking.' The King's physician can tell us of the worthlessness of alcohol as a medicine and its evils as a stimulant; and yet in view of all this our government has re-endowed this trade, already bloated with wealth and whose fabulous millions have been made out of the vice and misery of the people.

Can we hold our peace in view of such an organised iniquity—another natural result of Unionism?

If any Christian man—if any temperance man can condone and support proposals like these, he may make what professions he likes as to Temperance and Christianity, but I at least take the liberty to demur, and to make at the same time the New Testament demand, 'Shew me thy faith by thy works.' Men had better never make any profession at all as make loud professions of one set of principles, and then support by their vote those by whom these same principles are ignored and despised. It is time we had done with all such hypocrisy.

What we need to-day is plain speech and straight action. We need also a deepening sense of the wrong of sin, and the incalculable value of Righteousness as an Imperial asset. Sin must everywhere, and always, be branded as the most offensive and ugliest thing beneath the sun; the inveterate foe of the individual man, and the arch enemy of national progress and national permanence. As a church, we rejoice that we have taken some part in the displacement and destruction of evil in the mining villages of the north and the hamlets of agriculture in the south, as well as in the centres of our busier city life.

This honourable and holy war must go on, and there must be no apology for our opposition, and no relenting in our onslaught—The Lord of Hosts is with us, and we must not stay our hand or call back our forces until we have won for our country a purer government and the assurance of a brighter future; until the tyrannies of Mammon shall have been smitten into the dust and our social inequalities, which are at once our menace and our shame, shall disappear before the rising tide of brotherhood; until all the world shall realise that manhood and not money or station is the truest wealth; that Godlikeness is the most regal crown for man; that the only ambition which is worthy of us is 'to live so that Christ shall approve our lives,' and then dying to leave behind us an untarnished name, a high example, a character which our children shall not blush to remember, and a memory which shall help to bring back the long lost fragrance of purity to this marred and sin-stained world, and make it once again as the garden of the Lord.

## ON THE EDGE OF THE CROWD.

## The Free Churches and the Labour Party.

DR. HORTON's phrase, 'The strengthening of the relations between Labour and Nonconformity,' is upon the lip of all the Free Churches. It ought to have been there ten years ago; and I am not sure whether the recognition—so long withheld and unconscionably delayed—which the latter are now disposed to extend to the former, will not be regarded as being in the same case with Lord Chesterfield's patronage of Dr. Johnson in that it has arrived too late. And we ought not to be very much surprised that the proposed joining of hands and forces has provoked from the Labour leaders some such rejoinder as that tendered by the brave old doctor,—that had it been early it had been kind; but which being delayed until they are indifferent, until they are known and do not want it—finds them now unwilling to be considered as owing to a patron, what Providence and their own untiring efforts, have enabled them to do for themselves.

That those opinions are shared by the bulk of the Labour party, there seems to be but little reason to doubt, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the Free Church leaders will not commit the error of imagining the whole matter as being practically accomplished, simply because they themselves are



prepared to adopt some scheme, embodying Dr. Horton's very sensible and humane propaganda. It is one thing to make proposals, it is another to get other people to adopt them, and it must ever be borne in mind that, despite the very excellent list quoted by Dr. Horton of Labour leaders who are professing Christian workers, there are others who resent any advances made by the Free Churches as unsolicited interference, and who are prepared strenuously to oppose any coalition, or proposed common ground of action.

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Just a word concerning the Labour leaders, whose names the President of the Free Churches quotes in his address. Now, it is quite possible, as I think, to attach too much importance to the fact of these men being prominently identified with religious movements, and to overestimate its significance, as being indicative of what Dr. Horton calls 'the unconscious sympathy of the working people of our churches.'

All these men are lay preachers, and owe not a little of the prominence they enjoy in the Labour world to this very fact. Not, however, by reason of any desire on the part of Trade Unionism to honour the Christian Church by the election of these men to positions of importance and trust, but because, in addition to being men of integrity (a qualification, by-the-by, not confined to religious circles), they are gifted more or less in the art of public speaking, a gift acquired very largely by the faculties afforded them in their capacity as local preachers.

Emerson says we are all artists more or less, but it is only now and again that it gets into a man's fingers, and there the result is—a picture. Similarly, the members of the various great trade societies and organisations are all fervent advocates and apologists for their propaganda; but in the case, say, of nineteen-twentieths of their number, utterance is 'crippled, crabbled, confined.' For men endowed with the gift of putting into expressive speech those opinions and aspirations, which, although shared by so many of their brethren, refuses in their case to crystallize into words, promotion and prominence are practically secured. But it is not confined to men of religious convictions by any means; and so far as my own experience and observation have enabled me to form a judgment, some of the very men whose names Dr. Horton quotes are decidedly more popular *outside* the ranks of Trade Unionism than in it, or at any rate, this much must be conceded, that there are other leaders whose judgments are regarded with equal deference and respect by the rank and file, yet whose attitude to the Christian Church and religion generally is one of uncompromising hostility.

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The other evening I had the privilege of spending a couple of hours in company with one of the most influential and popular labour men in this country—a man who, in addition to having been in Parliament, has occupied the chair of the Trade Union Congress. In the course of a conversation which embraced social questions generally, I seized the opportunity to ask him pointedly whether, as a whole, the Labour party regarded with any degree of favour this pronouncement of Dr. Horton's, and its subsequent endorsement by other Free Church leaders. His answer, I am bound to confess, was only a confirmation of what I had suspected. 'What the Free or any other Churches are prepared to do,' he replied, 'neither has, nor will have, any effect on our fellows at all. Save for a slight feeling of irritation at its flagrant injustice, they cared little or nothing for Campbell's attack, and are not deceived by Horton's attempt to conciliate.' Such a statement, from one so well qualified to make it, indicates very clearly the antagonism existing in the ranks of Labour against the Christian Church.

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In attempting a solution of the dual enquiry, as to why working men do not come to Church, and why they are not gathered in great numbers into the kingdom of Jesus Christ, Dr. Horton submits a searching question, 'Is it not possible,' he asks, 'that the reason why working men are so difficult to bring into Christ's Church is, that the preaching is not strong enough, or concrete enough, to win and to hold them?' and adds significantly—'The methods of ministerial training are not fully understood as yet.' Now, presuming the answer to Dr. Horton's question to be in the affirmative, is it not reasonable to infer that the failure is a natural outcome of the inadequate training? Is it not a fact, that many a man spends his college days in an environment as far removed as the poles, from that in which he will have ultimately to labour? Who, when appointed to a pastorate, finds that his flock know little and care less about questions that have been to him as very meat and drink; while he himself is confronted with problems of life and conduct for which he realises he has no adequate message? One feels instinctively that such is the case in innumerable instances, and the successful solution of this problem of ministerial training, together with that larger and even more difficult question of how to win from the Labour party their confidence and esteem, are matters of grave import, deserving the attention of the shrewdest minds and keenest intellects at the disposal of English Nonconformity.—BYSTANDER.

### Glasgow Third.

Under the ministry of Rev. F. J. Sainty this circuit continues to progress. As a result of an awakening in our midst 59 names were added to our roll of membership. Of this number 14 are from the families represented in our Quarterly Meeting. God has been saving the sons and daughters of our own church members. Financially we continue to prosper, the balance being always on the right side. God is doing great things for us and in us.

### West Hartlepool.

The Milton Road Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the school was brought to a conclusion on Sunday, June 11th, 1905, when Mr. D. Shillam preached excellent sermons. The afternoon service was sustained by the scholars in a most creditable manner. Mr. R. Leonard ably presided over a crowded audience. During the service Mr. T. H. Pallin (superintendent) presented on behalf of the school, Doris Hunton with a beautiful organ edition of the Sunday School Hymnal, as a mark of appreciation on her attaining the highest possible marks (100) in our Connexional Scripture Examination, and in the West Hartlepool Sunday School Union Scripture Examination held in March last.

## The Home Circle.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

THE Ministers of Calvary must supplicate in bloody sweat, and their intercession must often reach the point of agony. True intercession is a sacrifice, a bleeding sacrifice, a perpetuation of Calvary, a 'filling up' of the sufferings of Christ. St. Catherine told a friend that the anguish which she experienced, in the realisation of the sufferings of Christ, was greatest at the moment when she was pleading for the salvation of others. 'Promise me that Thou wilt save them!' she cried, and stretching forth her right hand to Jesus, she again implored in agony, 'Promise me, dear Lord, that Thou wilt save them. O give me a token that Thou wilt.' Then her Lord seemed to clasp her outstretched hand in His, and she felt a piercing pain as though a nail had been driven through the palm.—JOWETT.

### THE ALTAR BY THE HEARTH.

*It is time to be brave. It is time to be true.  
It is time to be finding the things you can do.  
It is time to put by the dream and the sigh,  
And work for the cause that is holy and high.*

*It is time to be kind. It is time to be sweet,  
To be scattering roses for somebody's feet.  
It is time to be sowing, it is time to be growing,  
It is time for the flowers of life to be blowing.*

### PRAYER.

My Saviour! With Thee I would have real fellowship. Often I think of Thee in Thy loneliness, and how all single-handed Thou treadest the winepress. I would company with Thee. For the salvation of men Thou dost still suffer. Thy love bleeds for the world. Thou hast set Thy face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem, and it means derision, desertion, and the lonely cross. O grant me Thy Spirit that I may fill out that which is behind of the sufferings of Thyself. May I, by vicarious praying and living, save some. May I draw upon Thy resources that I may live Thy life. May the angel I need come and strengthen me when with Thee in Gethsemane. Impart to me the strength to suffer, to endure, and to witness for Thee. Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. Grant I may share the joy of Thy people, of every clime and age, when they shall hail Thee on Thy Throne, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Thanks be to God for the gracious promise: If we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him.

### STRENGTH FOR SERVICE.

*An address delivered at the Consecration Meeting of the National C.E. Convention in Carr's Lane Chapel, Birmingham, by the REV. JOHN BRADBURY, of Grimsby.*

THERE is a legend of Brittany that tells of an ancient town named Is. At some unknown time it is supposed the town was swalled up by the sea. As you go along the coast several places are pointed out as the probable site of this mystic town, and the hardy fisherfolk tell strange and haunting tales concerning it. One is: the tips of the spires of the churches may be seen in the hollow of the waves when the sea is rough, while during a calm the music of their bells, ringing out their message of life or death, rises with clear accent above the waters.

To-night, I would have you see the struggling hosts of men in the sea of human life, and in the holy, searching quiet of this closing meeting, hear—like bells at evening pealing—the cry of their need, their sin, their sorrow—

*'With octaves of a mystic depth and height,  
Which step out grandly to the infinite  
From the dark edges of the sensual ground.'*

For the herculean tasks that face us where shall strength be found? The answer is an open secret.

First.—Strength comes through a definite and all inclusive surrender.

There is always power in a surrendered man. Of one wrote Emerson, 'He was a great, therefore a surrendered man.' The double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. But the man who collects all his powers and says, 'this one thing I do,' has clothed himself with a force before which Time and Death are impotent. 'I can do none other, so help me God,' cries one. He is the monk who shakes the world. All great victories are first won in a man's own soul.

The majority of Christians fail, not because they seek defeat, but because they do not nobly and forever choose God's way of life. *They drift.* Fear of man, love of self, relish for sin, alliance with the world, make many say: 'Some day I shall be intense for God! Some day I shall live alone for my brothers—men.' But failing to make a full consecration, the 'some day' never dawns. Irresolution grows on the soul and life is gambled away.

First things first! The supreme task of this moment is the full and specific abandon of yourself to Christ. Do not dream, intend, procrastinate, play with the God-inspired impulse you now feel. But intelligently, completely, immediately, make the great dedication of your manifold life to God. Remember the New Testament doctrine of Holiness is not exclusion, but inclusion. Pleasure, companionship, business, study, citizenship, dress, holidays, passions, all must be included in your consecration. Can you say now with Madame Guyon: 'There are only two facts to me: the nothingness of man: the all of God?' If you can, then into your hands are put the keys of life and of death.

Second: Strength comes in knowing God's will for your individual life.

Some of you are destined for thrones of power, some of you are chosen to witness for God in obscure places. Some of you

are called to be prophets, and forthtell to your age and country God's mercy and judgments; over some of you I see the angel bearing the martyr's crown. Pass into the presence of the King, and hear His direct and royal command. Go thyself, be thyself, remain thyself, offer thyself—

*'To thine own self be true,  
Thou canst not then be  
False to God or any man.'*

The universal Christ speaks within the awful sanctuary of the individual spirit, and is dependent on your individuality for effective ministry to souls. To every man his work. To every soul the call to a distinct and voiceful service. You hear it now, do you understand? Is it a delusion or the voice of God? Of God and the soul be sure, and your strength is as the strength of ten.

You ask: But how can I be sure that I know the will of God?

I answer in the words of one who is present at this Convention.

'When I was crossing the Irish Channel one dark, starless night, I stood on the deck by the captain, and asked him: 'How do you know Holyhead harbour on so dark a night as this?' He said: 'You see those three lights? Those three must line up behind each other as one, and when we see them so united we know the exact position of the harbour mouth.'

You may know God's will when these three lights line up behind each other as one:

The inward impulse.  
The Word of God.  
The trend of circumstances.  
God in the heart impelling.  
God in His Book corroborating.  
God in circumstances directing.

He that surrenders fully to God knows His will, and doing that will, becomes a mighty man of valour.

Third: strength comes through the daily choice of the Sacrificial way.

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit. Christ chose this path that He might redeem the race. He walks this way still. From the place of His bleeding flows the River of God. The Spirit of power and conquest always comes from the altar. Crucify a man, and you make him a king. No Calvary, no Pentecost; no opened fountain, no life-giving stream; no cross, no throne.

The beloved president of this Convention, Mr. Jowett, utters the essential word for power when he says in his latest book:

'The Gospel of a broken heart demands the ministry of bleeding hearts. As soon as we cease to bleed we cease to bless. When our sympathy looses its pang we can no longer be the servants of the passion.'

Without the shedding of blood is no redemption—it was true of the Master, it is true also of the disciple. Every man whose work abides repeats in some measure the passion of Christ. The price of a soul . . . is a soul; it always costs a soul to save a soul. 'Who toucheth Me? Somebody hath touched Me; for I feel power is gone forth from Me.'

Fourth:—Strength comes in the constant reception of the Spirit of strength for service.

Our real life is Christ's life in us. Each man enters into Christ as much as Christ enters into him. The gospel of Whitsuntide is the power of God unto salvation. The incarnation is God dwelling *with* man. Pentecost is God dwelling *in* man. The empire of hell can only be undermined and overthrown by Spiritual power. When God takes up His abode in the individual soul, and we permit Him to have unquestioned and absolute sway, then in perpetual comradeship and co-operation He moves onward, and does exploits.

A war broke out between Israel and some neighbouring tribes. To human eyes it was a hopeless struggle for Israel. But in the valley of Jezreel the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon, and tremendous victory came to the people. Let the Spirit of God come to the centre of our being, He will take possession of our faculties, and put on the man as a garment. He becomes the soul of our soul, the life of our life. Disturbing no faculty, destroying no part of the personality, He dwells and works in the life, vitalising, permeating, sanctifying, directing, empowering, and firing every part of man's being. This is Consecration; this is Christianity; this is the will of God concerning you—to be *filled, fired, possessed*, by the Spirit of all might. O the difference it makes; it is the difference of drudgery and delight, of defeat and victory, of life and death.

In the American Civil War Sheridan's army was attacked in his absence. The camp was routed. Men threw down their arms and fled like scared sheep. Suddenly the retreat is arrested, they take heart, return, and drive back the enemy. What turns the disgraceful rout into a glorious victory? General Sheridan has suddenly returned; he rides into the midst of the disordered host, and in the twinkling of an eye his conquering personality passes into the men, and they are changed from cowards to heroes. In the presence of sin, before entering a holy war, or attempting some new task, 'Receive ye the Holy Spirit.' Then shall you know no fear or defeat, but you shall be possessed with the fearlessness of a mighty faith, and be more than conquerors. What wonders God-empowered men have wrought, in Africa, Fiji, India, China, and the Islands of the sea. The treasure in earthen vessels has enriched the world. To you, *with God*, the impossible becomes the possible. Hitch your wagon to a star. I call to the altar, to the altar! Ten thousand souls await our consecration. Languishing churches need Christians of flame. Many a lonely, faltering life will hail our infilling with the Spirit as the coming of the Lord. 'The world has yet to see what God can do *with and for and through and in* a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him.'

A young man heard those words, and resolved—'I will try my utmost to be that man.' He was Dwight L. Moody. The world knows the result. To the altar! To the altar!

In this throng I see the regal Christ. He is expectant, importunate, appealing. He knows the day of His triumph is hastened if we give our first, our best, our all to God.

## Young Men's World.

I HAVE undertaken, at the Editor's request, to be responsible for this column. For many years it has been one of the joys of my ministry to devote one Sunday evening during each winter month to a consideration of subjects that are of interest and moment to young men, and I have accepted the Editor's invitation, because it will enable me to speak to a larger congregation than I can possibly do face to face.

\* \* \*

Through this column I hope to come into personal touch with many of the young men of our Church, and as far as I am able to help them in their intellectual, moral, or religious difficulties. With a view to this, I shall welcome communications from any young man on problems that perplex him. Not that I shall be able to lay all his ghosts. I shall not try. We must work out our own salvation. Nothing could be more inimical to 'the highest, holiest manhood' than that everything should be done for us. 'The prize is in the process.' This is the victory, even our effort. The battle is won in the fight, and it is only the man who fights not that loses. But an ally may help. He may show us how to fight, and nerve us to do so. And my aim in this column will be to help young men in their conflicts as an ally, and so far to illumine and inspire them for the tasks of life that they may the more readily perform them.

\* \* \*

And so, if you are really troubled about any of the age-long problems of man's conduct, life, and destiny, write me. It is not intended, of course, that the correspondence shall be entirely restricted to the darker side of life. A young man's troubles are not all of a gloomy character. Even while he sings his voice sometimes falters, and so I hope that from time to time themes will emerge dealing with the beauty and bliss of being. All communications must be sent to me at the address mentioned below. They must be duly signed, but the author's name will not be disclosed. It will, however, be necessary to add some sign or non-de-plume by which the reply may be distinguished.

\* \* \*

It is sometimes charged against young men that they are too frivolous to heed the higher realities of life. Not long ago one of my own young men wrote me, saying, 'A matter of which I often think is the way in which we young men are apt to lose sight of the reality and seriousness of life.' There is something in the charge. There are young men to whom pleasure is the chief end and highest aim of life; others, with an inordinate love of the light side of things, while most love laughter rather than tears. Frivolity is a menace to most. But is this surprising? To the young laughter is natural. I have little sympathy with those foolish aunts and grandfathers who look for the gravity of three-score years and ten from youth. It is unnatural to expect a young man with the fire of life in his blood to go about singing—

'O Paradise! O Paradise!  
Its weary waiting here.'

A young man is to rejoice in his youth. And since age has set the fashion, it is still less surprising that youth should be in danger of living in pleasure on the earth. I sometimes seriously question whether the young men of this generation are more marked by the spirit of levity than their fathers. Again and again have I been delighted at the disposition and habit of young men to take life seriously. And it is an indisputable fact that young men are among the most vigorous and aggressive forces in our churches. I don't say that young men are too serious. They are not. Frivolity is a peril to which they are specially exposed. But when properly approached, they are quite disposed to give due thought to things that matter.

\* \* \*

Then it is sometimes said that if young men are not frivolous they are religiously indifferent. And not without reason. But here again they are only following in the wake of their elders. Every preacher of the gospel knows that it is a rare thing for a man to be converted 'in the midst of the years.' And one explanation is religious indifference. Preach as the preacher will, he cannot pierce the insensibility of these people. But in the case of the young men, my experience leads me to the conclusion that indifference is often more apparent than real. Granted that there is a marked aloofness towards religion, particularly certain conceptions of religion. But once a preacher intelligently and sympathetically seeks to adjust his theory to the facts the distance that separates begins to lessen, and ere long is wiped out.

\* \* \*

My faith in young men is invulnerable and invincible. I believe in young men, in their courage, their hopefulness, their strength, their eagerness, and zest of living. And the young men of to-day are just as good as the young men of any day, and despite the evidences to the contrary, are as 'readily responsive to the truth that comes with a moral appeal.'

Riche-Mont, Harrogate.

J. T. BARKEY.

## THE LOCAL PREACHER.

THE editor of the *Leader* has placed a weekly column at the disposal of the Local Preachers of our church. The column is to be conducted by myself, but the interest and value of it will depend very largely on what the local preachers themselves contribute. Nothing that is interesting, helpful, and inspiring to the local preacher as a preacher, a Primitive Methodist, and a Christian, will be considered foreign to this column. It is the hope and the desire of the conductor that local preachers will send to him questions, suggestions, personal paragraphs, reminiscences of interesting pulpit experiences, and what not, which will assist him in the weekly make-up of the column.

\* \* \*

There are over 16,000 local preachers on the plans of our denomination, and they fill at least four out of five of our pulpits every Sunday. Our church was founded by local preachers, and has largely depended upon the self-sacrificing service of these brethren. But the time has come when there is a general and strong feeling in our denomination that the local preachers need encouragement and help in fitting themselves for the efficient discharge of their duties in accordance with the needs and demands of present day congregations. Conference has carried legislation for the training of the local preachers. Machinery has been created for the carrying of that legislation into effect; but the success of the legislation will depend upon the willingness of the locals to take advantage of it.

\* \* \*

The conductor of this column will be very glad to receive information with regard to what is being done in the various Districts of our Connexion with regard to the formation of reading circles, local preachers' classes, local preachers' associations, and other means of assisting the men on whose ministrations in our pulpits the denomination so largely depends. Let this column be a place for the expression and interchange of opinion on this vital question of creating twentieth century local preachers for the twentieth century work of our pulpits.

\* \* \*

It is a singular and encouraging fact that during the last five years all the leading Free Churches have been turning their faces towards the local preacher. Some of the denominations appear to have discovered the local preacher for the first time, and regard him as an interesting and rather perplexing phenomenon. To Primitive Methodism the local preacher has from the beginning been a familiar figure, and without him there would never have been any Primitive Methodism. Let us hope that Methodists, and especially Primitive Methodists, will not allow the Congregationalists and the Baptists to generate a race of lay preachers who shall put the Methodist locals in the shade. They will do so if we do not rise to the occasion.

\* \* \*

In our own church the brightest and best educated of our young men should be trained to look forward to a place on the plan as the worthiest and highest ambition of their life. Culture is not everything, and social position is not everything; but culture and social position should equally be consecrated and laid upon the altar to be used by Christ in the advancement of His kingdom. The problem of the future is to conciliate the best culture with the pure flame of evangelistic zeal. Without the evangelistic zeal culture will be light without heat, and pulpit light without heat never yet saved a soul, and never will.

\* \* \*

The conductor of this column will call attention to books, old as well as new, that have proved helpful to himself as a preacher, and which he thinks would prove helpful to his brethren. He would be glad to hear from his brother locals of any book or books that have proved specially helpful to themselves.

\* \* \*

Once a month this column will be devoted entirely to homiletics. The conductor will offer a book prize for the best sermon outline, not to exceed 400 words, on a given text or subject. The winning outline will be published with the author's name. The conductor will publish the names of the next two or three in order of merit, and will devote the remaining portion of the column to criticism and suggestion based upon his study of the outlines submitted. Occasionally he will introduce outlines or suggestions for sermons gathered from study of the leading preachers of England and America. Preaching is an art, and sermon construction is a most important element of the art. The conductor believes that this homiletic column will be highly valued by his brethren, and he hopes that he will be embarrassed by the riches that will flood in upon him each month.

\* \* \*

The first Outline Competition will be a Summer holiday sermon, 'God's Works on Land and Sea,' on the text, Psalm civ. 24-25. All outlines must be sent in, addressed to 'Zeta,' at the office of the *Leader*, by July 12th. If return of outline is desired, a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed.—ZETA.

\* \* \*

ALL communications should be addressed to 'Zeta' the *Leader* Office, 73 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.

THE Rev. Clark Hallam has been presented with an illuminated address on his retirement from the secretaryship of the London First District Building Committee. In this department of church work his services have been most acceptable and helpful both to ministers and trustees, particularly in the erection of church and school buildings. A prominent place is given in the address to his fifteen years' labours in East London—the clearing of Stepney Green Tabernacle of its £1,000 debt, and the erection of the splendid pile of church and Sunday School buildings at Leytonstone, E.

## Woman's Work.

In this, the first number of our paper, I wish to make an appeal to all its women readers. The Editor, following the now almost universal custom, has decided to allow us a column all to ourselves, and, wisely or unwisely, has asked me to take charge of it. Now, if his choice is to be justified, and the new departure to prove a success, I must have the help and co-operation of my readers. Hence this appeal.

\* \* \*

But I fancy I hear some of you saying, 'Woman's Work,' what do you mean by woman's work? 'Is it her work in the church to which you refer, or in the home?' Ah, friends, now-a-days woman's work is a very wide and almost all-embracing term. Time was when it began, continued, and ended with her home, and what was contained therein. But not so to-day. Gradually but surely a great change has taken place, and now her sphere is wide as the world. We have women who successfully run great businesses, women doctors, women eminent in every branch of art, science, literature, politics, and philanthropy.

\* \* \*

AND how, you may ask, has this great change come about? Gradually, quietly, without any great revolution, by the mere processes of growth and advance in the state the change has been wrought. No nation can grow strong whose men progress whilst its women stand still. It would be, as I once read, like a man trying to walk vigorously with one foot free, whilst the other was wrapped in confining bandages. And because our people have apprehended this, and acted accordingly, we are now one of the foremost nations of the world.

\* \* \*

You will see, therefore, that as our column is to deal with woman's work in this broad sense, its scope will be wider than would at first sight appear; and we will be able to touch upon many topics, and look at things from many different points of view.

\* \* \*

I WONDER did you notice in the papers the other day that Miss Florence Nightingale is still alive, and has just celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday? What a link with the past! All the changes of which we have been speaking she has seen come about in her own lifetime. What a storm of obloquy and slander her offer to organise the British Army Nursing Service provoked at the time of the Crimean War! And all because she was a woman! How nobly she fulfilled her task, bringing order out of chaos, and life and healing to our sick and wounded soldiers, is known to all.

\* \* \*

A FRIEND who was present at our Women's Missionary Anniversary, held in the Metropolitan Tabernacle last month, tells me that the meeting was most enthusiastic and successful. I am glad of this, because in these days of stress and strain at home it is so difficult to get people to take an interest in the work of the foreign field. Much credit is doubtless due to the London Women's African Missionary Association for the persistent and indefatigable way in which, year after year, and all the year through, they carry on the campaign and keep up the zeal and interest in the cause. The speaking was excellent; Miss McKechine and Mrs. Jones Davies especially distinguishing themselves by their clear, forceful, and soul-stirring addresses. My friend's only criticism was, that the speeches were rather long. But isn't that a very common fault at our women's meetings?

\* \* \*

WHY should not similar Women's Associations be formed throughout the Connexion, say, in the large towns, such as Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Newcastle, Hull, etc.? If each of these could be a centre, having a number of surrounding places grouped with it, surely we might have ever so many successful branches. What do you think of it? Could the scheme be worked? Of one thing I am quite convinced: if it could, not only the Missionary cause, but our home Churches also, would derive great benefit and blessing.

\* \* \*

AND now to return to the appeal with which I began. Doubtless many of you are, like myself, sometimes in difficulties or perplexities. So many little things arise in daily life, perhaps in connection with the home, or it may be with the children, or even some unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves, and a little outside help would be of great benefit. Now, for such times as these I wish to offer you my services. If you will write to me at the Offices of this paper, I will do my best to help and advise you, or to answer any questions you care to ask me. You may rest assured your communications will be kept strictly confidential. I am one of yourselves, a woman, and a Primitive Methodist of the third generation. If you have no questions to ask, write and tell me what you think about the Women's Missionary Association scheme for the provinces.

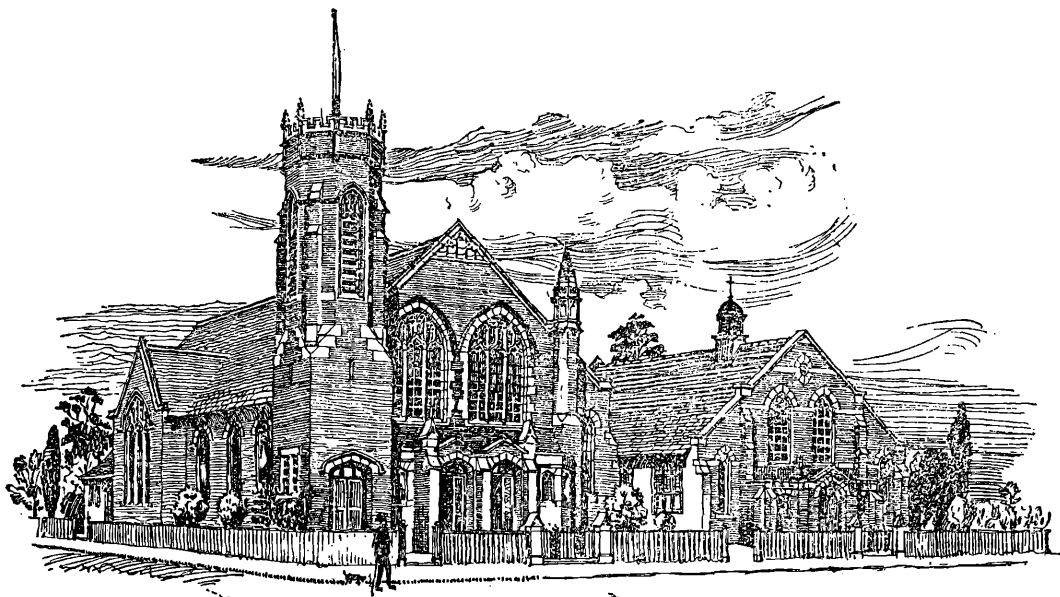
IGNOTA.

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ALL communications for this column should be addressed—IGNOTA, the *Leader* Office, 73 Farringdon Street, London, E.C.



## Church Extension in North London.



DAVIDSON & PHILLIPSON.  
ARCHITECTS.  
143 ADELPHI GATE, ST. P.C.

### EMMANUEL CHURCH AND ASSEMBLY HALL, BUSH HILL PARK, ENFIELD, N.

THERE are few developments of the polity of Primitive Methodism which have in so short a time exercised so great an influence, an influence which is still increasing, as the Church Extension Fund. By its encouragement and substantial help it has largely assisted in the creation of a hundred new churches, besides materially aiding the progress of some existing causes which had not the means of taking the forward steps so much desired and required. But its best work has been done in helping Circuits to launch out in new districts, where, apart from its aid, we should have been powerless to move. Emmanuel Church, at Bush Hill Park, in the Enfield Circuit, is a good illustration of the work which is being done through the help of the Church Extension Fund, and we present it to the readers of the *Primitive Methodist Leader* in the hope that it will deepen their interest in the work.

Bush Hill Park is a rising suburb of Enfield Town, and is situated on the extreme North of the Metropolitan boundary. Like all the suburbs of this marvellous city, its population is increasing at an amazing rate. Only a few years ago Bush Hill Park was a beautiful rural stretch of country, part of that 'leafy Enfield' in which Charles Lamb used to delight. Its lanes were charming vistas of magnificent trees. A few city magnates had here their country residences, and the farmers held almost undisputed sway over the fruitful land. The houses already erected are only a mere fraction of those it is proposed to build, and in the next few years some two to three thousand houses will be put up on this one estate alone. In the very heart of this growing district we have secured a site for our future church.

Two years ago the present minister of the Enfield Circuit removed here from Lancashire, and was painfully struck with the utterly inadequate provision made for the religious needs of the people. But poverty of resource compelled comparative inaction. Two or three new openings were entered, among them Bush Hill Park. Here were seven or eight thousand people at least, and church accommodation for about seven hundred. The only Nonconformists in the place were the Congregationalists, who had a small Iron Mission Church. The nearest Methodist cause was considerably over a mile away, and the nearest Primitive Methodist Church nearly two miles distant. There were a few Primitive Methodists in the district, but they had drifted away from our Church, or preserved the most nominal connection with it.

What could be done? There was no public hall available for our work, and the outlook was almost enough to fill one with despair. But just at that juncture there removed into the district Mr. and Mrs. Barley, both Primitives of a good old Yorkshire stock. Mr. Barley had come as the agent for the owner of the Bush Hill Park Estate, and of course knew the plan of development. He entered heartily into the idea of 'Missioning' the neighbourhood, and placed his drawing room at the disposal of the circuit for Sunday evening services. For little more than a year, services have been held regularly, with encouraging results; a society has been gathered, and the foundations of a prosperous church have been laid.

The Rev. T. Mitchell, Secretary of the Church Extension Fund, and the Rev. J. Pickett, General Missionary Secretary, visited the district and inspected the plan of the estate, and suggested the securing of the very eligible plot we have since obtained, and promised sympathetic consideration of the scheme. A trust was formed and steps taken to purchase the land, which is a corner plot, having a frontage of 130 feet to the main thoroughfare, Wellington Road, and a depth of 88 feet to Edenbridge Road. Mr. T. Davidson was engaged as architect, and prepared the plans, which were adopted. It is expected that when the scheme is completed, it will run into £6,000 or £7,000, and be one of the finest premises which our church possesses in the Metropolis. But the present purpose is to erect merely the Assembly Hall, which will seat about 300 persons, and part of the class-rooms. These, however, will involve an outlay of about £1,750, and will be really more than the trustees can well carry. But the London Church and School Extension Committee have generously given us a grant of £45, and the Church Extension Committee have promised to pay interest on £800 for ten years. Without

this help the scheme would have been impossible. The task, even with it, will be a great one; and at the most the trustees will not be able to raise more than £400 or £500.

One fact encourages the friends greatly, and that is, that the Rev. R. Bryant, our esteemed book steward, who is just quitting office, is coming to reside in the district and has promised his valuable aid in working up this new enterprise. Arrangements have been made for laying the Memorial Stones of the New Hall on August Bank Holiday, and we trust then to have a day full of blessing and success. Donations will be gratefully acknowledged by the Rev. R. Bryant, Rev. S. L. George, Enfield, N., or Mr. J. E. Barley, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, N. Primitive Methodists settling in North London are urgently desired to correspond with Rev. S. L. George, who will be glad to assist or advise as to the places of residence.

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

### Cardiff First.

On Saturday last the quarterly meeting was held at Llandaff. The Rev. H. Owen presided, supported by his colleague, the Rev. W. J. Zeal. The business was expeditiously disposed of. Notice to invite minister next quarter day was given. The Rev. H. Owen informed the meeting that out of many invitations which had reached him he had accepted the superintendency of Hereford Circuit for 1906. The Rev. W. J. Zeal intimated his intention to return to his Conference in America at the end of August, when he hoped to resume his labours where he had served for some fourteen years.

### Coxhoe.

We held our quarterly meeting on Saturday. The Reports showed the Circuit to be in a most prosperous condition. We met all our demands, and have a balance in hand of over £9. We report 30 increase in the membership for the quarter, and have about 140 in reserve. During the four years superintendency of the Rev. R. Fletcher this new circuit has made advance beyond all expectation. We have raised in addition to meeting our ordinary outgo for the Circuit—including £26 by the Rev. R. Fletcher's Lectures—upwards of £90, and our membership has gone up from 311 to upwards of 520. Our quarterly meeting was of a most happy character, and a special resolution of appreciation of the Rev. R. Fletcher's services was passed unanimously. Mr. Fletcher removes to Chester-le-Street Circuit. Mr. R. Garnett and Mr. T. W. Wilkinson were re-elected circuit stewards.

### Cradley Heath.

SOME important business was discussed at the June Quarterly Meeting. The Cradley Heath trustees presented plans for the proposed new church and hall, which is to cost £4,000. The plans gave general satisfaction, and are designed by Harper Bros. of Birmingham. An application was received by the Hayes Lane trustees for permission to purchase more land, and to extend their property, owing to considerable advance in attendance both in the Sunday School and public services. Encouraging reports were received from several societies concerning the revival work of the past few months. No Evangelist has been employed, except in one society, and the churches have conducted evangelistic services with marked success. Nearly 100 members have been enrolled 'on trial' since the last quarterly meeting. A new pipe organ was installed last week at Cradley, making the second that has been opened during the last few months. We are indebted to Mr. Carnegie for liberal assistance in both cases. Foundation stones were laid last week at Halesowen in connection with alterations that have been begun. Stones were laid by Messrs. J. Dingley, J. Gill, and T. Beard; besides a number of bricks by Sunday School scholars and friends. The architects are Davidson and Philipson, of London. Notice was given to invite minister next quarterly meeting for 1906-7. A spirit of gratitude was manifested in the meeting, and fervent prayers were offered for strength to carry on the good work.

### Dalton and Millom.

On June 3rd the quarterly meeting was held at Swathmoor. Arrangements were made for holding a circuit demonstration at Dalton in the course of a few weeks. The Haverigg church has recently installed a pipe organ, which gives great satisfaction. The Millom trustees have renovated their building at considerable cost. The Rev. Fred. H. Brown intimated his intention of leaving in July, 1906, when he will have completed four years' very successful service on the Station. A committee was appointed to secure a successor.

### Easington Lane.

Our church here has just experienced a gracious revival, in which some 80 young men and women consecrated themselves to Christ. The missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Urry, of Clacton-on-Sea, who by their singing and speaking and working served us well. Mr. Urry's forceful remarks on social questions were very timely. Meetings were held for men and for women, and the last night was devoted to 'Reminiscences of the Welsh Revival.' This proved the most powerful meeting of the series. The converts are all young people associated with the Church, and consequently we look forward with great hope to the future.

### Foxhill Bank and Accrington.

The quarterly meeting was held on June 7th. The Reports indicated the Station is in a healthy condition. The Circuit steward, Councillor E. J. Lord, reported a balance of over £10 in hand after all expenses were met. A resolution thanking the Rev. A. G. A. Lees for his services during the past four years was heartily carried.

### Hexham Circuit.

The June quarterly meeting was held on the 3rd inst. at Hexham, the Rev. J. Richardson presiding. There was an unusually large attendance, more particularly of the junior officials, which was a healthy feature. The report of members showed a number of removals from the circuit, but by additions, notably at Haydon Bridge, where we had a good work among the young men and women, our numbers were kept up to last quarter's total—500. Mission services have been conducted at several of our places by our own ministers, and with good results. The income for the quarter was slightly short of the expenditure, but we levy for what we want and pay our way. We invite ministers at next quarterly meeting.

### Liverpool Third.

The quarterly meeting was held at Everton Road on June 8th., Rev. J. Dudley presiding, and Mr. A. R. Malcolm, secretary. The report of members showed a net increase for the quarter of twenty-five. £100 has just been paid off the Everton Road Church debt. Jubilee Drive has made a successful effort for its Trust Fund, and Zion School has been beautified. The meeting was glad to hear that the Rev. A. Wightman was better in health. A good holiday was also granted to Mr. Dudley for rest and recuperation. A number of conversions were reported for the past quarter, and the Circuit outlook is bright.

### Maryport.

The quarterly meeting was held on Tuesday at Ellenborough. We have now 80 more on the Roll Book than in March. The balance in the hands of the circuit steward was £35 17s. Some £15 had recently been expended in the minister's house. Sanction was given for the erection of a new church at Ellenborough. The Maryport Trust has paid off its debt during the quarter, leaving only £60 owing on the estate.

### Minsterley.

The quarterly meeting was held at Pontesbury on Monday, June 5th. The circuit was found to be in a prosperous condition. About 70 converts have been made since January. Several young men are accepted as candidates for the preachers' plan. We offered £10 to Minsterley trust on condition the society pay £50 off their chapel debt by June 25th, 1906. Due notice was given to invite the minister, and the following resolution was passed unanimously, 'In consideration of the prosperous condition of the circuit, both financially and spiritually, under the superintendency of Rev. L. Miles, this meeting records its highest appreciation of his services, and gives him a hearty invitation to remain in the circuit a fifth year.' The invitation was as heartily accepted. A splendid tea was provided by Pontesbury society.

### Pontefract.

The quarterly meeting was held at Pontefract on Monday. The report of Members showed an increase of 27 on the quarter, without reckoning any who have joined the Church as the result of the recent mission. The Circuit is prosperous, and with a second minister, to be appointed by Conference, the work should continue to flourish. The Rev. Geo. Clun informed the meeting of his intention to leave in 1906.

### Rhymney Valley Circuit.

The quarterly meeting was held in the new and beautiful church at Blackwood on June 5th. Forty-five representatives present. The motion to pledge an additional minister was rejected by a majority of three votes only. The quarterly meeting ultimately decided by an overwhelming majority to employ a hired local preacher, to reside at Blackwood. A resolution was unanimously and heartily adopted, thanking the Rev. G. Leadbetter for his efficient and successful services during the last four years, and wishing him much prosperity throughout his future ministry.

### Shrewsbury.

The June quarterly meeting was held under the presidency of Rev. Albert A. Birchenough. The meeting reported an increase of members. Mr. Charles Davies was re-elected Circuit Steward and Mr. E. Birch Circuit Secretary. As the present ministers are leaving in 1906, arrangements were made to secure their successors.

### Tredegar.

The quarterly meeting was held at Commercial Street on June 5th. It was decided to form a class among the local preachers for the study of homiletics. A committee was formed to make enquiries re ground for minister's house. The circuit has been for some time enjoying prosperity. After all accounts were met, there was a credit balance. The increase of membership during the quarter was 57 full, and 35 on trial. The Rev. A. E. Wilcox intimated his intention to leave in July, 1906, after three years service. A Committee was formed to select his successor and notice to invite was given.

### West Hartlepool.

The quarterly meeting was held on June 7th. The Reports indicated peace and prosperity. The membership showed a total of 600, being a substantial increase on the quarter. During the Rev. W. Shipley's superintendency 303 names had been removed from the books, but 414 had been added, leaving a nett increase of 115 on the four years. The financial account showed a considerable increase on 1901. As the Rev. W. Shipley leaves for Liverpool next month, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for the distinguished service he had rendered.