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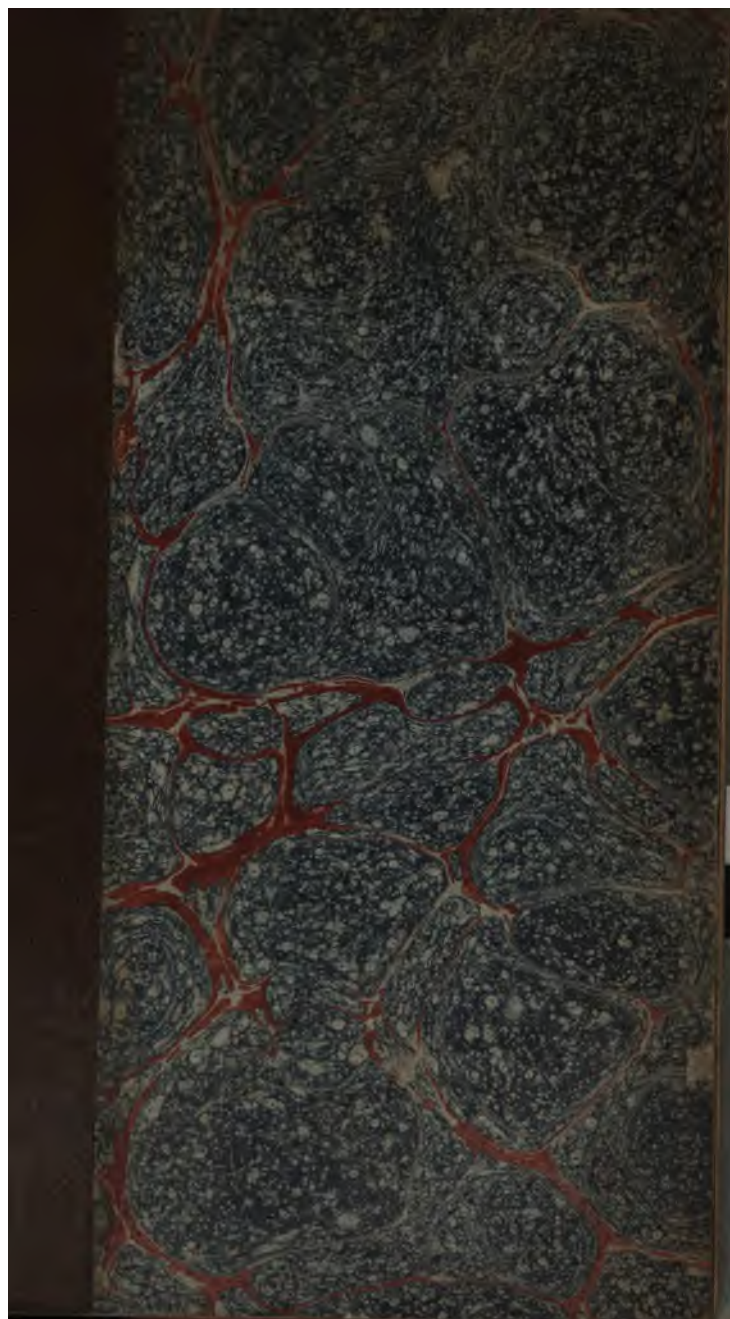
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A COMPANION TO THE MINUTES :

BEING A

REPORT

OF THE

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

MDCCCXLIX.

**COMPILED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES, AND CONSECUTIVELY
ARRANGED.**

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED

**THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE IN REFERENCE
TO THE CASES OF THE REV. MESSRS. EVERETT, BUDDELL,
DUNN, GRIFFITH, WALTON, AND GEORGE ;**

AND

THE STATIONS OF THE MINISTERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE design of the present work is to furnish to the public at large, and to the Wesleyan Community in particular, a connected and impartial account of the whole proceedings of the memorable Conference of 1849.

It is entitled "A COMPANION TO THE MINUTES," not that it emanates from the same source, but because it is suitable as a companion, and contains a large amount of information and interesting detail which the "Minutes" themselves do not supply; placing on permanent record, and for future reference, not only the measures of the Conference, but also the speeches and circumstances connected with their adoption.

The present publication is professedly and purely a compilation; the various reports which have already appeared having been carefully collated, and such a selection made from the whole as seemed most likely to convey the real facts as they occurred, and the sentiments as they were expressed. In some cases, and as respects several of the discussions, only one account has been available, and has therefore been accepted as the best that could be obtained, with such omissions or slight alterations as were necessary to divest it of an evident party bias.

Trusting that credit will be given him for having aimed at fairness and impartiality, and not wishing to be classed amongst anonymous writers, the compiler subscribes himself,

SAMUEL HARRISON.

5, *High-street, Sheffield,*
Aug. 21st, 1849.

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WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE,

MDCCCXLIX.

PREPARATORY COMMITTEES.

THE formal meeting of the Conference is preceded by the meeting of various Committees, the importance and interest of which, are second only to those of the great assembly itself. These Committees, formed of both ministers and laymen, review the administration of those various branches into which the operations of the Wesleyan church are ramified. One has charge of the schools for the sons of ministers. Another watches and guards the progress of chapel building. The support of aged ministers and ministers' children, the Connexional literature, the Sabbath question, the movement for establishing Catechumen classes, the Education scheme, and the Missionary enterprise, all have their separate Committees, which review their past course, and take counsel as to their future direction.

THE STATIONING COMMITTEE.

The Stationing Committee, appointed to prepare the first draft of the Stations of the ministers for the ensuing year, assembled on Friday, the 13th of July, in Oldham-street Chapel, Manchester, according to the appointment of the last Conference, and continued its sittings by various adjournments until its business was completed.

KINGSWOOD AND WOODHOUSE-GROVE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

This Committee, representing the interests of the seminaries in which the "sons of the prophets" are educated, met on Wednesday evening, July 18th. There was a respectable attendance of ministers and laymen from different parts of the Connexion. After the usual devotional exercises, the Rev. JOHN HALL, the secretary, read a communication from the late mathematical examiner, Mr. Exley, in which he expressed his regret that his growing infirmities obliged him to decline, in future, this honourable office. An acknowledgement for his services was then gratefully recorded. The Rev. JONATHAN CROWTHER read a long and very able report of his own examination of the classical scholars in the various classes in the Kingswood School. He also read a joint report, from himself and Mr. Exley, of their examination of the several classes in mathematical knowledge. These reports were very favourable, as was also the report of the progress of the scholars in religious knowledge. The want of more suitable accommodation for the library, and in the school generally, was also touched upon; and the local committee urged the necessity of commencing the building of New Kingswood as soon as possible.

The Rev. W. BARTON read the report of the Governor (the Rev. W. Lord) of Woodhouse-grove School, as to the health and general conduct of the boys, and a report from the Rev. C. Taylor, Superintendent of the Woodhouse-grove Circuit, giving a favourable account of the piety of the

boys, twenty of whom meet in class. Others were reported as under good impressions. Mr. Barton also read a report from the Rev. John Manners, head master of Wesley College, Sheffield, of his examination of the boys in the classics. The highest class had acquitted themselves well; the inferior classes in a less satisfactory manner. Mr. Manners had also examined the mathematical classes, and the report of the attainments of the boys was here more favourable. Estimates for the erection of an eastern wing to the building had been obtained, and it was recommended that it should be proceeded with as soon as possible, in order to afford adequate accommodation for the 125 boys now at the school. The local committee recommended that, when the applications for the New Kingswood School shall have been completed, such portion of the subscriptions as have been obtained in Yorkshire shall be appropriated to the enlargement of Woodhouse-grove School. This proposition appeared not likely to be conceded.

After the reading of the Minutes was concluded, Mr. CUSWORTH gave some account of a remarkable work of God which has just occurred at Kingswood School, and has resulted, as it is believed, in the conversion of a considerable number of the boys. The Rev. CHARLES PREST read the Financial Report, from which it appears, that the balance in hand last year, has been exhausted, and that there is now a debt on the current expenditure account. This has arisen partly from a decrease in the amount of the public collections, but principally from the increased expenditure rendered necessary by the large number of boys in the schools, and of claims due for education of daughters at home. It appeared that in order to proceed with comfort upon the present scale of numbers, an additional income of £800 or £900 per annum would be necessary; and it was stated that some means must be devised for increasing the annual income, or it will be requisite to diminish the number of the scholars. J. ROBINSON KAY, Esq., expressed his fear that the attainments of the boys in these two schools would be found not equal, on the whole, to those of boys of the same age in other public establishments. The Rev. JONATHAN CROWTHER, as one of the examiners, expressed a different opinion. The Rev. JOHN FARRAR confined, from his own observations, Mr. Crowther's favourable view. The Rev. JOHN BOWERS bore testimony to this fact, that, of all the students introduced into the Didsbury Theological Institution, none had acquitted themselves so well as those who had been trained in one or other of the above schools. Thanks were then voted to the governors, their wives, and the principal officers, and the Committee separated.

CONTINGENT FUND COMMITTEE.

This Committee met at nine o'clock on Thursday morning, the 19th of July. The Rev. W. CUSWORTH, the treasurer, stated that the sum of £647, reserved by the last Conference for extraordinary and contingent expenses, will be found too small; and, as the result of this, one of two alternatives would have to be adopted—either the claims for afflictions, travelling expenses, &c., would have to be curtailed, or the debt of the fund would have to be augmented. The Committee, with this fact before them, proceeded to consider and decide upon a variety of applications, many of which could only be granted in part, in consequence of the depression of the fund. Many of the cases of affliction considered were such as *were endured by the brethren in the service of the Church, or by their families, or by the widows of deceased brethren.* Many of them were

calculated to excite the intensest feeling, and the inability to meet them as they needed caused deep regret. In deciding on the several cases, in which great care and discrimination were required, the Committee spent the greater portion of the day. At the conclusion it was found that, instead of £647, the sum which was intended to meet the several cases, upwards of £1,300 had been granted. It was then moved, seconded, and carried, that nothing less than the last-mentioned sum should be recommended, in future, to be set apart to these incidental expenses, and the Committee separated.

CHAPEL FUND, CHAPEL RELIEF, AND CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEES.

These Committees met on Friday morning, the 20th of July. The Rev. FREDERICK J. JOBSON read the Report of the CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE. It began by expressing their satisfaction, that, on a comparison of the results of their endeavours within the past year with the results of preceding years, the number of new erections and enlargements was increased, while the proportionate amount of debt was reduced. Of the erections and enlargements allowed since the Conference of 1848, more than one-fourth were to be entirely free from debt, while for the debts on the remainder, there would be an income of nearly 20 per cent. For several years past, there had been a continuous and progressive reduction of Chapel debts, and it was hoped that, by persevering efforts on the part of Conference, and of its Committees, the number of Chapels requiring relief would be gradually diminished. The applications during the year had been 121;—65 for new chapels, 29 for enlargements, 7 for school-houses, 7 for organs, and 13 for the sale of old chapels: of these, 86 had been allowed, namely, 46 new chapels, 19 enlargements, 5 school-houses, 4 organs, and 12 sales. The entire cost of these was estimated at £21,275—the amount of debt remaining at £5,662, and the expected income at £1,128. The returns of buildings completed were larger than in any preceding year; but the cases of buildings erected or enlarged in violation of rule called for serious attention, being greater than the number of those in which the rule had been observed. The erections completed within the year were 98,—as to 43 of which the rules of the Connexion had been honourably fulfilled: the entire cost of these had been £14,949: 18 had been built quite free from debt, and the realized income was more than 14 per cent. upon the remaining debts. The buildings on which the debt exceeded the allowed amount were 24, and the excess was £1,895. There had been 31 chapels completed without any sanction whatever from the Committee, and in direct and open violation of Conference laws. As might be expected, their debts were larger, and their income smaller, than those of any other buildings reported. In some instances, the responsible parties had already felt the effects of their imprudence. The Committee deemed it necessary, that Conference should remind the ministers of the rules on the subject of erections and enlargements. The laws required, that before the work of building be commenced, written sanction should be obtained from the Building Committee, that two-thirds of the amount should have been promised, and that at least one half should be lodged in some respectable bank. The practice was not to allow any erection, unless the expected income amounted to, at least, 15 per cent. upon the debt;—and, in some cases even this amount was insufficient. The Committee had observed, with increasing satisfaction, the great improvement of late in the architecture, propriety and style of newly-erected Methodist Chapels. (Hear, how

The returns showed, that, where proper regard was paid to economy, these had not been more—but less costly—(hear, hear) than if they had been built after the pateru of irregular or mis-shapen buildings. Departure from architectural order and propriety almost uniformly occasioned extravagant expenditure. It was necessary, however, in passing from extreme irregularity and plainness, care should be exercised lest there be a hasty rush into needless elaboration and adornment. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, the Committee earnestly recommended the appointment of a respectable architect, describing it as a false supposition that Trustees could economise by the non-employment of professional men, who, if faithful to their trust, would, in most instances, save more than the cost of employing them.

The Report of the CHAPEL FUND COMMITTEE was then read by the Rev. ROBERT WOOD. It appeared, from this document, that in 249 Circuits there were no subscribers of 10s. or upwards;—in 63 Circuits there was only one subscriber of 10s. or upwards; in 126 Circuits there were 669 subscribers, and the total amount of subscription was £639 4s. 6d. In 149 Circuits there were no Trustee subscriptions;—in 130, there was one subscription in each Circuit;—and in the remaining 159 Circuits, there were 397 Trustee subscriptions, amounting to £675 4s. 6d. The aggregate of the public Collections, and Private and Trustee subscriptions, was £5,169 16s. 4d.;—last year it was £5,165 16s. 2d.;—there was, therefore, a small improvement. There would be some addition to this amount, from small sums which might be received by the Treasurer during the sittings of Conference, and there was also a balance of interest to be added. As it stood at present, there was a sum of £5,169 15s. 2d.,—and subject to a deduction of £11 3s. for joint expenses of management, —(or £5,158 12s. 2d.,)—to be divided between two objects—the Chapel Fund, and the Educational Fund.

The Report of the CHAPEL RELIEF FUND was read by Mr. J. D. BURTON. The total receipts, with the balance of last year, amounted to £5,150 11s. 5d.; from which grants had already been paid, in 22 cases to the amount of £2,010;—leaving £3,140 11s. 5d. in hand. Grants had also been voted to other Chapel Trusts, to the amount of £3,160; so that all further grants could only be made in anticipation of the income of 1850. Mr. BURTON then went on to offer various details and observations. The sum paid out last year was larger than in any two previous years, in consequence of many cases, long standing over, having been settled. By the end of the year, the balance would be pretty nearly exhausted. It was quite needful that the Committee should take into serious consideration the state of their finances. They had now, at their disposal, only £2,100 or £2,200, whereas they used to have £5,000 or £6,000. Five years ago, when the scheme of division was agreed upon, it was presumed that the total amount would have increased considerably; but he believed that scheme had rather tended to diminish it. (Hear.) Whether that was the time to enter upon a discussion as to the expediency of a change, he did not know. The Committee must have larger resources before they could do what it was really the duty of a Relief Fund to do. Those who did not know the working of that Fund could have no idea of the amount of good it had done in stimulating effort. He had almost uniformly found, that the settlement of a case was the commencement of “a good time.” (Hear.) £4,000 a year was not more than cases of absolute distress required;—if it was £5,500 the extra sum would be *invaluable*,—for small grants often induced large efforts, and produced *threefold benefits*. (Hear.)

The Rev. R. WOOD concurred in sentiment with Mr. Burton. They could never go on comfortably and effectively till the income was increased. But he must remind them that the partnership, which had been alluded to, was to continue for two years longer. It was agreed that the experiment should be made for seven years, and only five had expired.

Mr. WALKER, of Cheltenham, offered some suggestions in favour of a mortgage or loan fund, similar to the former one, which led to some discussion, but the proposal was not entertained.

The Rev. P. M'OWAN thought the union of the two funds liable to grave objections. Gentlemen wishing to subscribe to the Chapel Fund, objected to give their money because of its connection with education; and on the other hand, gentlemen prepared to support the Education Fund, objected because part of it was appropriated to Chapels. The subscriptions of Trustees had diminished, and would be diminished still more, because of the appropriation to educational purposes; and he thought the sooner the union was dissolved the better. Would it not be expedient to give the subscriptions to the one, and the collections to the other? He was satisfied that no efforts of the Ministers could increase the income of the joint fund.

The Rev. W. W. STAMP said, this was the opinion of the Liverpool District.

The Rev. JOSEPH FOWLER said, he was not disappointed, for he had formerly stated his conviction of what would be the result. They received more for the Chapels alone, many years ago, than they now received for both. However, they must do nothing but what was honourable and just;—all their funds must be maintained. There was a compact that 700 schools should be raised in 7 years: it would be a fit enquiry, what progress had been made in the erection of these schools? If the cause of God, of Methodism, and of religion, would be better promoted by dissolving the union now, what reason was there for its continuance?

Mr. J. D. BURTON (in reply to a question from Mr. Osborn) said, the Chapel Relief Committee would require £4,000 a year, at least.

The Rev. G. OSBORN reminded the meeting that there was another side to all this observation. They should have the husband there, if the wife wanted to be divorced. (Hear.)

The Rev. F. A. WEST observed, Mr. Burton had urged the claims of chapels, because that was a Chapel Committee. He had good grounds for believing, that, on Monday, the members of the Education Committee would be found equally desirous of a dissolution of the union. An united Committee might then be formed, and the question seriously considered.

Here the discussion ceased, and the committee proceeded to make various grants to chapels, after hearing and investigating their respective claims. This portion of the business having been completed,

The Rev. G. TAYLOR drew attention to the irregular and defective manner in which the financial affairs of Trusts were managed,—especially where there was a number of chapels. He thought great assistance might be rendered by something like a Circuit Chapel Committee, with one Trustee from each Trust, who should engage to meet at least once a year, appoint a Secretary, and look minutely into the accounts. If a recommendation to this effect went from that meeting, it would aid Superintendents in the prosecution of such a duty.

Mr. BURTON recommended, that, in every circuit, a book should be kept, and transferred from one superintendent to another, in which should be entered the name of the chapel, the amount of debt, and the amount

of income. This book should be kept under the superintendent's eye ; and, from time to time, inquiries should be made, whether things continued the same, or what alteration had taken place ?

Mr. TAYLOR said, this suggestion exactly met his views. He had found great inconvenience and loss from the very loose manner in which Trust accounts were kept.

Mr. BURTON stated, that several chapels which had received relief last year, had made no application this year.

At this stage of the proceedings, some resolutions were produced, and read by the Rev. F. A. WEST, which had been passed, at an united meeting of Trustees in the Sowerby Bridge Circuit. The object apparently was, to bring before the meeting the desirableness of following this precedent, and of having clear and separate accounts of the state of every chapel in a circuit.

The Rev. S. JACKSON said, centralization was a good thing within certain limits. (Applause.) He objected to any legislation on this subject. Every circuit was competent to make its own arrangements. The Conference required every superintendent to look into his own circuit affairs. If he thought a general meeting of trustees necessary, he could call one. These good brethren had been doing good service, but he protested against their system being made law.

Mr. J. R. KAY said, an observation of Mr. Jackson's had elicited a considerable amount of applause. It was popular, just now, to condemn centralization ; but, if it was really effective in promoting the secular or spiritual interests of mankind, he saw no reason for condemning it.

Mr. JACKSON—I condemn its excess : I admitted the principle, and approved of it.

Mr. KAY went on to show, that the way in which enquiries had been answered indicated that Circuit accounts were kept in a very defective manner. There might be rules that superintendents should do so and so ; but did they perform these duties ? To meet the case,—without wishing to pass any reflections,—he should simply propose a resolution, in effect, that Conference be requested to recommend the superintendent of every circuit to examine annually into the state of every chapel within the circuit ; and that the Chairman inquire regularly, at the May meeting, whether this recommendation had been carried out.

Rev. C. PREST—Suppose any trustee refuses to shew his accounts ?

Mr. KAY—Meet the case when it occurs.

The Rev. JOHN RIGG said, in almost every district where he had been, such enquiries had been made.

The Rev. GEORGE JACKSON said, these inquiries referred only to delinquencies. He had never followed a superintendent in his life, where this law had been fully carried out ; but, in every circuit, he had endeavoured to introduce it. In every schedule he had a single page, which brought under review the entire facts of every case.

The Rev. S. JACKSON repeated, that there was no necessity for any additional rule. Rules on some points were becoming too numerous.

Mr. KAY—And chapel debts are becoming too burdensome.

The Rev. WILLIAM NAYLOR said, he had no difficulty in obtaining trustee meetings. His plan was to say, "You can have no anniversary till you meet me and show your accounts."

Mr. HEALD stated, at some length, and in forcible terms, his own views and impressions on general chapel affairs,—views which, two years ago, *he had pressed upon the committee, and which then led to considerable*

discussion. After all the money raised, and all the amount of debt liquidated, every year they were at a loss to devise such a system of management, as to ensure freedom from embarrassment and from increase of debt. Two years ago he had suggested the only cure, and that which they must eventually apply, namely, not to listen to any popular cry, but to pass a resolution to withhold their sanction from the erection of any chapel, on any plan, for a given time, unless the whole money was subscribed for it. (Hear, and intimations of dissent.) This rule was applied, many years ago, to appointments of preachers, and, he was persuaded, it was not less applicable to chapels. They had not capital in the concern sufficient to work it comfortably;—this embarrassed the thoughts and feelings, and abstracted the attention of ministers; and they could not expect from ministers greater attention to chapel affairs. The fault was in the system as much as in the administration. What they needed was, to teach localities, that if they wished for a chapel, they must not go on to build it, and depend upon the Connexion for its maintenance. They did not treat God's house as they treated their own: they erected places to the honour and for the worship of God, leaving them in debt! (Hear.) The duty and business of the Christian church was to act otherwise; and circuits must be taught, that what they undertook in building chapels, they must pay for,—except in cases of very crying necessity. Where this could not be done, there was no special call for a chapel. A law had been laid down which required two-thirds: but had it been carried out? Were they nearer a cure? Chapels raised within seven years, were coming to this fund already. He would be no party to any arrangement for going on without paying the money. Mr. Heald concluded, after some further remarks, by suggesting a resolution embodying these sentiments.

The Rev. JOHN MASON was sorry to hear such a proposition broached, because he thought its effect must be seriously to impede the work of God, and to prevent the spread of Methodism. Taking his own circuit, if Mr. Heald's proposition had been carried out two years ago, what would have been their situation? During the last two years,—through the persevering and untiring efforts of Mr. Rattenbury, and the blessing of God upon his exertions,—two large Chapels had been built in the City Road Circuit, and a third was nearly completed;—every one large enough to hold a congregation and contain a Society sufficient to support a minister. These chapels had been erected with a comparatively small debt,—a debt which could never cause embarrassment, and which would be gradually liquidated in a year or two;—but, by this proposition, the City Road Circuit, as well as many others, would have been laid under an interdict, and not allowed to build. With such restrictions, what would become of Methodism? He gave Mr. Heald credit for his zeal, piety, and anxiety to promote the interests of the Connexion: no man was a more decided enemy than himself to building chapels recklessly, or incurring heavy debts and responsibilities: but he hoped they would not go to the other extreme, and pass a law in effect prohibiting chapel building for two years. He should oppose such a measure, there and elsewhere, with all his heart and soul.

Mr. HEALD, in explanation, said, no person was more disposed than he was to pay a tribute to the worth and exertions of Mr. Rattenbury. (Hear.) He should, however, like Mr. Mason to state what other Christian churches erected places of worship in debt? As to the City Road Circuit, he was not certain whether they would not have got more for the *three Chapels, if it had not been known that only two-thirds of the money was intended to be raised, and not the whole.*

Mr. RATTENBURY—That would have paralysed exertion. We could not have raised the whole.

Mr. HEALD continued—He opposed the present plan, on account of its secularity. He was not sure, that while they were enlarging in number they were not weakening the springs at the centre. (Hear.)

Mr. RATTENBURY—We lose nothing in soul by working for God.

Mr. HEALD went on to argue, that by freeing the people from the burden of debt, they would swell the amount of their spiritual power. Let them look at the question financially,—as men of business. (Hear.) There was nothing in the example of other churches to justify them. The time had come to relieve the springs of the body, and set them at liberty for spiritual influence and action. He heard this from every part of the country, and from other denominations. He might cite the resolutions of the Conference with respect to schools.

Mr. RATTENBURY—There is a permanent income from the one, but none from the other.

Mr. HEALD—They will have to come to the same principle with regard to chapels.

After a few observations from **Mr. RATTENBURY** and **Mr. FOWLER**, the resolution was read from the chair; and, after a slight modification, suggested by **Mr. JOBSON**, was passed, and the meeting adjourned.

THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

The Book Committee met on Friday, July 20th, at five o'clock in the afternoon. The Rev. **ISRAEL HOGGATE** read the report of the proceedings of the year. Various literary works had been presented in MSS., which had been read and decided upon. Some of them had the honour of being accepted, others were politely declined. The state of our periodical literature, as given by **Mr. Mason**, was as follows:—Of the "Shilling Magazine," there have been published during the year, 7,250 copies, being a decrease of 750; of the "Sixpenny Magazine," 3,250 have been published, being a decrease of 250; of the "Youths' Instructor," 4,250 copies have been issued monthly, being a decrease of 500; of the "Miscellany, or Family Visitor," 58,000 copies have been published, being an increase this year of 8,000; of the "Early Days," 38,000 copies have been sold, showing an increase of 4,000. The sale of the Hymn Book was thus announced:—8vo. size, 260 copies; 12mo., 2,620; 18mo., 2,575; 24mo., 5,212; 32mo., 5,625; 48mo., 31,975; 64mo., 12,125; 72mo., 2,650; Of the cheap edition for schools, 64mo. size, 36,000; 48mo. and 32mo., 19,600; of the Hymn Book in double columns, crown 8vo. 283; 18mo., 672; 24mo., 2,764 copies; making a total of Hymn Books sold during the year of 122,361. The number sold last year was 108,665, showing an increase during the present of 13,696. The stock in the book-room is estimated to be in value this year £36,800. Last year it was reckoned at £35,535, showing an increase at the present time of £1,325.

The account of the publication of Tracts during the year was as follows:—25 new tracts have been received and accepted; 21 new tracts have been published. The number of Tracts sold during the year was 813,190; number of tract covers sold, 393,347; number of handbill tracts, 174,520; total, 1,381,057.

A conversation of considerable length ensued, upon the propriety of remunerating the principal writers for our periodicals. It appeared to be supposed by some that the writers of all the principal articles do *actually receive remuneration*. On examination, however, it was found that

this so-called remuneration was little else than the present of a book or two by way of acknowledgement, and it appeared to be the general opinion that a more liberal mode of transacting this part of the affairs of the book-room was exceedingly desirable.

Mr. MASON gave intimation of an intention to publish, in two volumes, certain portions of the hitherto unpublished MSS. of the Rev. Charles Wesley. Some doubt was expressed by several members of the committee as to whether an adequate sale was likely to be obtained for them. Thanks having been voted to the editors, book-steward, secretaries, and committee, the business of the meeting closed.

THE AUXILIARY FUND COMMITTEE.

The Auxiliary Fund Committee, for considering and relieving cases of special distress and necessity among Supernumerary Ministers and their families, met on Saturday morning, July 21st. Some of the cases were very urgent, and needed a much larger amount of assistance than the committee had it in their power to grant. It was stated that the late James Wood, Esq., of Grove House, Manchester, who was one of the Treasurers, has left, among other legacies, a sum of £500 to this fund. A suitable record and acknowledgement of this munificent bequest was directed to be made. In reference to the above, Dr. Wood sent the following note to the editors of the *Watchman* :—

“Ardwick Lodge, Manchester, July 28, 1849.

“Dr. Wood will thank the Editors of the *Watchman* to correct an error which was accidentally made in the Auxiliary Fund Committee, and afterwards repeated in the *Watchman*, viz., that his lamented father, the late James Wood, Esq., had left £500 to the Auxiliary Fund. His legacies to the Connexion are as follows:—To the Wesleyan Missionary Society, £500; to the Wesleyan Theological Institution, £500; and to the Itinerant Wesleyan Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society, £300. All free of duty.”

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend the Conference to appoint George Chappell, Esq., as Mr. Wood's successor. The amount contributed by the societies in their classes, to this fund, nearly reaches the average of sixpence per member, first deemed to be necessary for its support.

CATECHUMEN COMMITTEE.

The Catechumen Committee met on Saturday the 21st of July: From the report it appeared that 25,000 young persons are already gathered into these admirable classes, which is a fine earnest of the 200,000 promised by the Rev. Samuel Jackson. The Sheffield West Circuit alone contains 1,500, and the Leeds Second Circuit 800 Catechumens. One class, which has existed for some seven or eight years, has conducted into the church fifty members, and the villages around Sheffield have, many of them, their prosperous catechumen classes.

SABBATH COMMITTEE.

This committee met, according to appointment, on Saturday, July 21st. The proceedings were not of much public interest.

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The sittings of this committee began at nine o'clock in the morning of Monday, July 23rd. The Rev. SAMUEL JACKSON, in the absence of the

President, took the chair, and commenced the business with the accustomed devotional services.

No regular report had been prepared; but, as in former years, the minutes of the General Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Normal School Sub-committee, were read by the Rev. THOMAS VASEY, one of the Secretaries, and the Rev. JOHN RATTENBURY, the Treasurer. These presented a general view of the proceedings since the last Conference. The matters chiefly referred to, were the legal settlement and management of the property in Westminster, purchased as the site of the Normal School;—the selection of plans sent in by competing architects,—those of Mr. James Wilson and Mr. Wm. Jenkins being preferred;—the examination of candidates; the apportionment of grants;—the appointment of teachers, male and female;—the salaries of masters;—the examination of estimates; the correspondence with the Committee of Council on Education, and a correspondence much more singular, with the Rev. S. R. Hall, formerly one of the secretaries, respecting the Westminster property. It appeared that, for certain temporary purposes, that property had been absolutely vested in the late Mr. Hunter and in Mr. Hall; by the death of the former, the legal estate was now solely in the latter; and the committee had in vain requested him to execute a conveyance to trustees, himself among the number, some doubts of a legal character having taken possession of his mind.

From the minutes now read, it appeared that several grants had been made in aid of school-building, and that much deliberation had taken place relative to the designs for the erection of the Westminster Normal Schools. Reference was also made to the deficiencies in the accounts of the Rev. J. S. Stamp, one of the treasurers of the Children's Fund. In pursuance of the resolution of the last Conference, the committee have applied to the Committee of Council on Education, for all such aids as might be obtained from the government under the Minutes of Council, towards the erection and support of the Westminster Normal School. That application had been most favourably received. In reply, Mr. K. Shuttleworth informed the committee that their lordships, taking into consideration and approving of the efforts made by the connexion to establish schools in that locality at a considerable additional expense, had been pleased to grant £7,000 in aid thereof; namely, £5,000 for training schools and principal's residence, and £2,000 for elementary and practising schools and master's dwelling; on these conditions,—first, that the buildings should be erected according to the plans submitted to their lordships, and that no alterations should be made without their consent; second, that the balance-sheet of the receipts and expenditure, or a copy thereof, should be deposited in the Council-office; third, that the buildings be transferred to trustees, for the purpose of preserving them to their avowed use, and that the accounts should at all times be accessible to her Majesty's inspector; fourth that the trust-deed should be submitted in draft for their lordships' approval, prior to its execution, and when executed, a copy to be deposited in the Council-office; fifth, that a certificate of compliance with these regulations be made, and that no balance on account of expenditure be left unpaid, excepting such as would be covered by their lordships' grant, and that the grant be claimed within two years. Their lordships expressed regret that the comparatively limited sum at their disposal, and the large demands made upon their *attention*, precluded the possibility of increased assistance. The plans for building the schools, given by Mr. Wilson, of Bath, and accepted by

the committee, involved an outlay of £30,568. The annual expenditure is reckoned at £4,750. The expense for the site was £8,822. Numerous applications have been made for teachers by different schools in the connexion. Several new schools have been established, some two or three have been abandoned; and some schools, for the purpose of saving expense, have dismissed their trained teachers, and have engaged others who have received no regular training. In the Glasgow Normal School sickness had prevailed to some extent, and the committee had determined to extend the time allotted to the students, so as to enable them to obtain the requisite diploma of capability. The committee had also resolved to request of Conference, that the services of the Rev. M. C. Taylor be retained in the office of secretary for the ensuing year. The following is a general summary of the state of education in the connexion. The returns are very imperfect, owing to the fact of many circuits omitting to return their schedules. Some circuits are taken at an estimate on former years. Too much reliance, therefore, must not be placed on them. The numbers probably, are greater than stated, the error being more in defect:—

Day Schools.

Week-day and infant-schools taught by trained teachers recommended by the committee 192 Schools taught by other teachers 221 <hr/> Total number of day-schools 413 <hr/> Number of boys taught 21,509 Ditto girls 12,923 Ditto infants 4,536 <hr/> Total 38,968	Annual cost, including teachers' salaries £25,043 7 0 Increase, during the year, of schools taught by trained teachers 9 Decrease of others..... 4 Increase of boys taught.... 1,122 Ditto girls 428 Decrease of infants..... 397 Net increase in number of scholars, as compared with last year 1,164 Total increased expenditure £221 15 0
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Sunday Schools.

Total number of schools .. 4,344 Increase 75 Number of scholars 461,197 Increase 18,301 Increase in average number in attendance 11,595 Number of children attending select classes preparatory to their introduction into the church 22,829 Increase 126 Number of teachers 83,992 Increase 2,192	Number of teachers who are members of society..... 59,643 Increase 2,190 Schools in which the Conference Catechism is taught 3,906 Increase 65 Number of schools in which the children are regularly taken to chapel 4,049 Increase 139 Total cost £26,194 10 0 Decrease of expenditure £266 0 0
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Eighty-three candidates for admission into the Training School have applied during the past year; of these, five were refused, nineteen withdrew, forty-two were accepted, and fourteen stand over for consideration. The general cash account showed a balance now in the hands of the treasurer, of £14,408 17s. 3d., which is invested in the purchase

stock. The annual current account for the year was—Receipts, &c. £4,820 14s.; Expenditure, £3,338 19s. 11d.; Balance, £1,481 14s. 1d.

After some conversation in which Mr. FARMER and Mr. WALKER took part, on the subject of the expense per head of the training school,

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT briefly related the circumstances connected with the unhappy differences between the committee and the Rev. S. R. Hall. The committee had felt it to be their imperative duty to the Connexion, in obedience to the resolution of the Conference referring the matter to them, to call upon Mr. Hall to execute an intermediate deed, as the full trust-deed could not at present be completed, in consequence of the expense connected with the buildings, and therefore the ultimate value of the property not having been estimated. This, Mr. Hall, from doubts arising in his own mind, had refused to do.

The Rev. S. R. Hall rose to defend his conduct. He said the report of the committee contained *ex-parte* statements, and also strongly protested against the reading of the correspondence, and against his letters being made a permanent record of on the minutes of the committee.

Mr. SCOTT said the reason why the minutes had been read in the presence of that mixed community was, first, that it came before them as a matter of course, and unless some exception had been taken to it they were not at liberty to omit doing so. Then the view which he took of the subject was this:—there was a great connexional property at stake, and it was not a mere Conference matter.

J. HEALD, Esq., M. P., put it to Mr. Hall what Mr. Hunter's (his late colleague) course would have been under similar circumstances.

Mr. HALL said his reply was, that if Mr. Hunter had been in his position there would have been no difficulty about the matter—he would at once have taken counsel's opinion and charged it to the trust estate. His (M. H.'s) position was, however, necessarily different. He was a Methodist minister, and, therefore, bowed to the decision of the Conference. He could not take his right as a mere Englishman; his respect for the Conference prevented it, and therefore he had appealed to that body.

Dr. BUNTING said the question was, what was the nature of the trust confided in him? what was the purpose intended by the deed? Mr. Hall had no right to constitute himself a judge of what ought to be the ultimate disposition of the property. The Conference had committed the management of that business to the committee, who had a right to know that that money was secured to the Connexion free from the contingencies which might arise in the event of his death. The committee had a right to ask Mr. Hall why he had not transferred the property.

Mr. Hall said, that he had not been asked to transfer the property; but if a document were put before him to transfer it to other parties, he was prepared to sign it.

Mr. VASEY said that was not the point in hand. They wanted to mend their position—they wanted a deed in which an acknowledgement of the trusts intended was expressed.

After some further discussion Mr. P. Bunting read the trust clauses in the deed which the committee were desirous Mr. Hall should sign.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that he certainly thought Mr. Hall ought to make the transfer; and if he had a conscientious or an intellectual difficulty which could be removed by counsel's opinion, he ought for his own personal satisfaction to have taken it; and then, should he be involved in any pecuniary loss, make an appeal to the committee. Moreover, he felt that *such was the magnitude of the affair*, that even had the committee refused

to repay him, he should, in Mr. Hall's case, have thought it an honour to pay it himself.

Mr. HALL said, that he considered that he was called upon to make a simple transfer of the property on account of the contingency of life, and did not for a moment suppose that a transfer meant a deed of trust. When he read the deed, he found he was to convey a certain property, the whole of which he was not really in possession of. There was a minor in the case, and that minor's signature had not been attached to the original conveyance; and it struck him that it was a fair point to place before counsel, whether it was competent in them to declare a trust under such circumstances. He was also under the impression that, although no trusts were declared in the conveyance of the property to him, the fact of those deeds being enrolled was an indication sufficient that a trust was involved. He found that the deed he was called upon to sign gave the power to other parties to do anything with the property without any responsibility as to appropriation; and he laboured under the conviction that some general clause should be introduced, specifying upon their demise what should be done with the funds. These were his only objections.

A very protracted discussion ensued, in which Drs. Bunting and Beaumont, the Revds. Thos. Vasey, W. Barton, John Rattenbury, and Messrs. Farmer, Heald, and P. Bunting took part; at the close of which,

Mr. FARMER proposed, Dr. BUNTING seconded, and the LORD MAYOR of YORK supported, a resolution to the effect,—That the committee having listened with the most patient consideration to the request of the committee in London to the Rev. S. R. Hall to execute the deed, earnestly express their conviction that Mr. Hall should at once comply with such request.

On the question being put,

Dr. BEAUMONT asked a pause before the sense of the meeting was taken, in the hope that Mr. Hall would prevent the necessity of such a course.

During the delay the Rev. F. A. WEST referred to the absence of the Secretary of the Conference, which was occasioned by serious illness. He had made enquiries on the subject, and ascertained that it would be some days before the rev. gentleman would be able to attend to business.

After a brief pause,

Mr. FARMER said he should have no objection to the resolution standing over till the evening, to allow an opportunity for Mr. Hall to consult any person he pleased, but with this understanding—that there should be no further discussion.

The question was then deferred, and the committee adjourned till five o'clock in the evening.

During the course of the discussion, testimony was borne to the excellence of Mr. Hall's character, and deep regrets expressed for the hostile position in which conscientious scruples had placed him with the committee.

The Rev. J. RATTENBURY also assured Mr. Hall that the feelings of the committee towards him were of the most friendly kind.

Evening Sitting.

The committee re-assembled at five o'clock; the President of the Conference in the chair. After the usual devotional exercises,

The PRESIDENT said the committee now waited for Mr. Hall's decision.

Mr. Hall said, perhaps the meeting would allow him to say, that he felt great obligation for the time and attention which had been bestowed upon the consideration of that question—he could scarcely call it a deliberation, for he had no evidence on his part to offer. His position was assured by

a communication from the secretary, the substance of which had been repeated—that, not being a trustee, he could not act under legal advice. Through the courtesy of parties at the morning sitting, the matter had been referred to a legal gentleman, Mr. Cooper, who had looked over the deeds, and had suggested one or two alterations, which met very fully his own views on the first objection started. That gentleman had also suggested to him a very specific interpretation of the second objection, viz., that which related to the appropriation clause. It was now proposed to introduce such a clause, and he was prepared to say, very thankfully, that, having been advised by that gentleman, he was ready to sign the deed. He, however, again objected to a letter, which had been frequently referred to, being put on the minutes.

Mr. VASEY reiterated a statement he had before made that the letter was understood to be to the committee, and had been so considered by all the members. He assured Mr. Hall that he had not intentionally placed a communication of his in a public position that was for a private perusal only.

Mr. SCOTT, in the absence of the committee's professional adviser, and of a great number of the committee, could only say, that as far as he understood Mr. Cooper's proposition, it was perfectly unobjectionable. He should like Mr. Bunting to look at the interlineations. He hoped the engrossed deed could be interlined with what was proposed, so as to save the expense of another deed.

Mr. COOPER hoped it could. Since he had seen Mr. Scott, he had also seen Mr. Bunting, who agreed with him as to the propriety of the alterations. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN—With this understanding, is Brother Hall to relieve us all at once by signing?

Mr. HALL—I beg pardon if I did not make myself clearly understood. Whatever Mr. Cooper advises me to sign I am prepared to sign. (Hear, hear.)

Shortly afterwards Mr. Bunting, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Hall left the room, and, in a few minutes, the President announced that the deed was signed, sealed, and delivered. (Applause.)

The Normal Seminary.

After some questions put by Mr. FARMER, as to the number of scholars,

Mr. SCOTT proceeded to state the financial position of the committee, with respect to the Normal Schools. The estimated cost of the building, furniture, &c., to complete the Training and Normal Schools, at Westminster, was, for buildings, £17,473; gas fittings, (also tendered for and included in the contract as a separate item,) £210; stoves, (also tendered for and included in the contract,) £261; Architect's commission, in round numbers, £850; Clerk of the works, £200; Furnishing of the training schools, principal's house, and normal schools, £2,000; Law expenses, not yet paid, (including the expense of the trust deed,) £150. There was also an item for an unexpired lease: Sundries, for extras, and things not taken into account, or not at present foreseen, £500; making in all, £23,144. He then adverted to the money available towards the cost. He wished to say that the committee were convinced that it was highly important to keep faith with the public;—(hear, hear)—that having obtained, by a special contribution, £20,000, and the half of the *united fund*, from year to year, to go on, for seven years, in accomplishing *a specific purpose*, set forth in the resolution of the meeting in London,

in 1843, he had thought it right, that they should make no appropriation of the money that would alienate so much of it as would prevent them from carrying into full effect the engagement made at the time. These were two years of the seven unexpired; and when the accounts of the present year were closed, the treasurers would have a balance in their hands, according to the present calculation, of £1,057 5s. 9d. Taking the expenditure at the average of the last three years, it would be, for all items, for 1850, £3,071 13s. 4d., and the same sum for 1851, to complete the seven years, making £6,143 6s. 8d. to be provided in order to carry them on to the end of the seven years. To meet this expenditure, there would be a balance in the treasurer's hands of £1,057 5s. 9d.;—Dividends on £14,000 stock, to be received in October, for they would most probably not have touched the stock before then—(he reckoned nothing for next year, however, on that account)—£220 17s. 4d. Then the united fund for 1850, taking it at the average of the last four years, would be £2,613 16s. 8d.; and the same amount for 1851, would make a total of available proceeds, for those two years, of £6,505 16s. 5d., which left a surplus for contingencies, after providing for the expenses of the two years, of £362 9s. 9d. With this balance in hand, he felt confident they might safely leave the treasurers alone. In June, they had £14,000 in the Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Stock, which was then at 91, and therefore he had deducted 9 per cent.; the funds were higher at present, and it was hoped they would be still higher when the sale was effected; but, deducting, as then, 9 per cent., the amount would be £12,740. Then there was the Children's Fund £400. The old materials they had put down at £500, but, since then, part had been sold, and it was found their value was not so great as calculated, and probably £210 would be their value. They might have got £300 for them, to be worked up into the new building, but all their practical men objected to it. Cash in the treasurer's hand, from the Kingswood fund, £450. Making, in all, £14,090, of their own money now available. Then there was a grant from Government, of £7,000, which swelled the amount into £21,090, leaving a deficiency of £1,054. Now, it was quite possible, that practical men, in looking over the estimate, would find that they had made some omission. One thing they had already proved, was, that the foundation was not so good as was anticipated, and there would be greater excavation than was calculated upon, which would increase the cost. Besides that, he knew of nothing else that was likely to be a material addition. He wished, therefore, to say, that they would not be safe in just telling the connexion that £1,054 would complete the building; they ought, at least, to have £2,000. (Hear.) The annual expenditure of the Normal Schools they estimated as follows:—Principal's salary, with private house and board in the establishment, £200; Head master, (non resident,) £400; two masters, with apartments and board in the college, £120, £60 each; two masters, with houses provided on the premises, £300; two other masters, with houses not on the premises, £400: making the salaries to amount to £1,420. The board and furnishing of 100 students, at 8s. per week, £2,080; board of four officers, £200; servants' board and wages, £250; matron's salary, £50; books and stationery, £100; linen and furniture, £200; medical expenses, £150; taxes and rates, £150; repairs, 100; fuel and light, £200; water, £100; making in all, just £5,000. Dr. Kay Shuttleworth, at his request, had given him an estimate, which amounted to £4,758; and he said the establishment might be maintained for £45 a student, by great management; but, in all probability, it would

cost £50 per student, and the committee's estimate amounted to £50 per student. They reckoned their annual income in the following manner:—800 children, at 2d. per week, forty-eight weeks in the year, £320. They might, perhaps, realize more from some of the superior children, if they got their school into as high repute as the Glasgow school was. Well, then, eighty students, at £20 per annum, allowed by the government;—it would be perceived, that they reckoned that the institution would have one hundred students, but he thought it was possible that when the inspector came to examine at the end of twelve months, there might be a few who would not pass the examination:—taking them eighty at £20, there would be £1,600. There was also the augmentation of salary of four masters by government, £120. Of course, deduction would be made from the salaries allowed to them in anticipation of such augmentation. The next item was one to which he had paid considerable attention. He did not think it was, upon the whole, beneficial to the individuals themselves, or convenient to the committee, or for the advantage of their friends, that they should give their instruction gratuitously. (Hear.) In the first place, no other educational establishments of the kind did this but their own. (Hear.) It was a proper thing, perhaps, to have done it hitherto; but he more than questioned whether it would be well to continue it. (Hear.) Besides, what a man could get for nothing he did not care much to seek after; but what he obtained by effort, thought, and diligence, was valued more highly; and therefore it would be very beneficial to the students themselves. Considering, too, the position which the masters would in the course of a few years assume in consequence of the training they would receive, he thought it was not unreasonable that they should pay for it. (Hear.) He had thought that £10, at least, should be paid, though some of the friends thought £15 would not be out of the way. (Cries of "hear," and "£20.") It was left an open question. But he would not have the rule without exception. He would provide exhibitions, where there was a good deal of peculiar merit in a pupil teacher, who had, for five years, distinguished himself, so that he might have his education gratuitously, under peculiar circumstances of inability. He would have a certain number of places vacant, which the Committee were to fill up, with cases of peculiar character. And he hoped that, in the course of time, there would be generous friends, who would make donations to the institution, by which these exhibitions might be increased in number; and perhaps there might be some gentlemen out of the connexion who would do so, because they approve of the plans pursued in the college. There was another reason. The government would present an exhibition to certain pupils, who had made great proficiency, and they would be sent to some one or other of the Normal institutions, with £20 for their maintenance; and that sum it was not thought the pupils should retain. Taking, however, 80 students, at £10 per annum each, that would be £800, making the entire income £2,840, which, deducted from the £5,000, would leave a deficiency of £2,160. Besides this, there must be added to the annual expenditure, a sum for outfit, inspector's salary, and other miscellaneous expenses, which must be incurred in administering the system. These items, exclusive of the expenses of training the students at the Normal School for the last three years, had amounted, on the average, to £1,516 3s. 7d. The annual deficiency at the Normal School, would be £2,160; the sum annually required for extra expenditure, £1,500; making altogether, £3,660. If they took the moiety of the United Fund, the sum it

had realized during the last four years, was £2,813 16s. 8d., leaving a deficiency of £1046 3s. 4d. to be annually raised above the present moiety of the United Funds. They would, therefore, want the comparatively small additional sum of £2,000, in addition to what they possessed, to get the buildings paid for, so as not to leave a shilling of debt upon them. (Hear.) As to raising this £2,000, if it was divided amongst the four hundred circuits of the Connexion, it would be but five pounds each; or Conference might give a sanction to the committee's going into some of the principal places, to hold public meetings, and state the case as they did in 1843 and 1844; they could get the money, and the course would do good by stimulating effort. He asked, could there be any difficulty in raising the annual outlay of £3,500 or £4000, for the maintenance of such a system as this? The institution would give to local circuits a very considerable assistance, by providing them well-trained teachers, and by the guarantee of outfit, meeting the first expense of setting up a school. Then he would say, again, they required such an institution. It was not convenient, to say the least of it, when they had passed them in London, to send them to Glasgow, (hear,) and there to leave them without efficient and complete superintendence, (cheers,) especially when it was considered that these teachers were to be the principal persons on the circuits in future years. They had been hitherto highly favoured. Mr. Stow, had been a valuable friend; and the masters had been choice men, but it might have been very much otherwise. Besides, if the Free Church of Scotland carried out the general purposes that were announced in the Report of the General Assembly, they would want for themselves all the masters that these two institutions could furnish, so that the connexion might have, at least, a very much smaller number admitted in time to come, or be excluded altogether. (Hear.) Then, he thought they had gone too far to retreat; they had bought the land. They had presented their case to government, who had received the application with great readiness; for in three days after their application, the committee received their answer that £7,000 was granted; and, he was bound to say, that in all their intercourse with government, they had met the kindest treatment, (hear,) and he believed there was an appreciation, in the minds of the Committee of Council, of the high value of the services which the connexion as a body had rendered to the poorer classes (hear, hear) of the people of this country. (Hear.) He did not believe there was a member of the committee who would speak disparagingly of their Sunday Schools, for they had come to the understanding that, whatever else might have been done, they had taught good principles, and that those principles had had a salutary effect on the minds of the people in times of disturbance, (hear, hear,) and that, if it had not been for the instruction there given, they would have acted, in all probability, in a very different manner. (Hear.) Supposing they had abandoned the schools, or they were not now to carry them out, what would have been the position of those who had advocated their claims? Then, other religious educational bodies in the country had their Educational Training Establishments. And he thought they were called upon, by religious duty, at this time, not merely to set up the institution, but also to maintain it. It was not fair to the poorer members of the Society to oblige them to send their children to the schools of other denominations. And when they saw all the religious bodies in the country exerting themselves in this direction, it was not quite consistent with the zeal that had marked the Wesleyan body from the beginning.—

that built their chapels and got the people to attend them,—and filled those chapels and brought the adults to hear the gospel,—that they should leave the children of the poor to be gathered up by other people who were more zealous than themselves. (Hear.) He thought the present time was favourable. Government was once in danger of taking the education of the country under their own management, but they were opposed, and government had now left the education of the people in the hands of the religious bodies, allowing them to teach as they pleased, only requiring that a good secular education should be given. The connexion, therefore, should take advantage of it, and be prepared to do their share of the work in this their own department. (Hear.) He knew certainly, these schools were answering the purposes of the connexion;—they were really rendering services of the highest religious kind. God had blessed them by pointing out a system of instruction, which was admirably adapted for the communication of religious knowledge, and he had given them teachers converted to God, and devoted to their work, and all these things were loud calls to exert themselves in regard to educational efforts. He hoped that something would go from that meeting, strongly urging upon the connexion the great work of christian education.

The Rev. JAMES METHLEY congratulated the meeting on the fact, that many questions which had been opened at first were now settled, and they had made considerable advances towards the completion of their purposes. The principal matter which, he conceived, ought at present to occupy their attention, was the religious part of the question—that it was their duty to retain, with parental affection, the whole of the children brought under their supervision. Great efforts were now making, by members of the Church of England, among the poor, through the medium of schools, which were kept in most efficient operation. This was the case particularly in reference to Leeds. There the Church had a system of education, silently working, which was telling very unfavourably on their Sunday Schools. With one exception, every church had its day-schools, for boys and girls, and those schools contained 3,411 children. Mr. M. then went on to show the sort of agency and influence employed to induce parents of other denominations to send their children to the church schools; and he also showed, by quoting passages from a small tract put into the hands of the children, the kind of theology, and the envenomed party spirit inculcated by the Puseyite clergy. Amongst other things, it was stated in this tract, that “by baptism in the church we are regenerated or born again;”—that “the only duly authorized ministers are bishops, priests, and deacons;”—that “they who are not in communion with the Church are not in communion with Christ;”—that it was a duty to “abstain from going to Dissenters’ meetings;” and that “dissent was schism,” and schism “a sin against God.” He urged them to prompt and continuous effort in extending their educational plan, both for the sake of the souls of their children, and for the sake of Christ.

The Rev. C. PÆSZ, had taken occasion, when in Leeds a few weeks ago, to attend the weekly catechising at the Parish Church in the afternoon. The minister was a very able man. He asked a few questions from the Church Catechism, and then extemporized, interestingly, on these questions. He had evidently two objects in view: the ostensible one was, to instruct the children; the more important one was, to instruct those of larger growth through the children. There were, in every congregation, a number of persons who ought to be talked to as an able man would talk to a child; and he should be glad if, in addition to many other

good things in the Connexion, they could adopt some public mode of catechising, which, he was persuaded, would be attended by the very best results. Hooker spoke of catechising, not only as prudent and proper, but as one of the most remarkable exemplifications of wisdom connected with the early development of Christianity as taught in the church: none of the heathen philosophers ever discovered a method so fraught with good, so practically wise, and so extensively beneficial. He should be glad to co-operate in carrying out such a system. He concluded by moving—

“That this Committee, having heard the statements of the London Education Committee, respecting the outlay contemplated in the erection of the Normal Schools, &c., at Westminster, and the proposed means for meeting such expenditure,—also statements of the probable annual cost of efficiently conducting such establishment, and a plan for providing for this charge, express their gratification at finding that both these most desirable objects are shown to be practicable,—and cordially concur in the following resolution of the Committee, held in London on the 12th of June:—

‘That this meeting is of opinion that the revised plan and estimates now brought before it are on the whole satisfactory, and in its judgement will not incur the risk of any such ‘future and contingent embarrassment’ as would justify any further delay in attempting to carry out the noble scheme which has been so long contemplated; that though difficulties must in every such case be anticipated, they are not so great but that they may be surmounted by the blessing of God, and the enlightened zeal and benevolence of our friends; that further delay would in various ways be most hazardous, and, indeed, inevitably injurious; and that, therefore, this General Committee hereby sanctions and authorizes the Sub-Committee to take such immediate steps as they may think expedient for the erection of the Westminster School, on the most economical plan which they may yet be able to devise:’

And therefore earnestly recommend the Conference to afford both schemes their continued sanction, in confidence that the Connexion will fully discharge their duty in this important Wesleyan and national object. And this Committee beg to suggest that the Connexion would be found ready to give a very adequate amount of pecuniary support, if the Education Committee were directed to send a deputation to some of the leading towns, for the purpose of stating the plans and objects connected with this great movement.”

Mr. FARMER said, it was to him, in some respects, a matter of regret that he was placed in circumstances which disabled him from moving the resolution—being one of the Committee to whom it incidentally referred—but he might be justified in rising to express his approbation of it. He cordially approved of it, not only for the reasons assigned, but also in consequence of his own observations and experience during the past year. On former occasions, he had expressed some doubt as to the desirableness of the undertaking,—not because he did not approve of the measure, but because he considered it too formidable. He thought, by some means, they might be relieved of this onerous work. His experience and enquiries however, had gone to prove, that unless they did act upon something like the plan proposed, and with more vigour and earnestness than they had done, they would have to deprecate what would take place. (Hear.) He had made an experiment in the neighbourhood with which he was connected, where he had established a school at his own expense. At first, it

did not operate as he expected, in stirring up those who claimed to exercise a right over the parish, to make a corresponding effort. There was a school, but it was of an indifferent character, belonging to the Establishment. At length the crisis seemed to arrive. An individual, who supposed himself on his death-bed, offered £500 towards the formation of a National School, one-third to be appropriated to endowment. A meeting was called, at which he attended, and at which he expressed the love he felt for education and his desire to promote it, by co-operation in every way: and he put the question, whether, supposing the children of non-conformists availed themselves of the instruction proposed, not excluding the catechism, they might yet attend the chapel which their parents frequented? His reason for putting the question was, because he had known a child disgraced for going to a non-conformist Sunday school. He was told, that he had taken the meeting by surprise, and was asked to put his question in writing. He wrote a letter, as courteously as he could, which was laid before the diocesan, who recommended that no departure should take place from the rules. (Hear.) Under these circumstances, he withdrew an offer of £50, which he had provisionally made,—but, to show his good-will, gave £10 as a contribution, expressing more regret than surprise, because he thought the course taken injurious to the interests of the church. He believed that was the principle which was in operation. (Hear.) He could conceive that, unless they had schools, the desire after education would not abate, but increase, among their people as well as others; and, whilst this desire was felt, it would be too severe a tax to place upon them, to expect that they would abandon all the privileges of daily instruction, merely to secure that of the Sunday school. (Hear.) This system would operate against themselves, unless they adopted some educational course. He was disappointed to find, that only 1,120 boys and 428 girls had been brought under instruction during the past year. This was going on at a very slight rate. They ought to do all they could to carry out this measure. He had it upon his mind, that Methodism was as efficient now as ever it was; but, to secure its efficiency, it must be conducted upon the principle which unites and gives force to all voluntary associations—that of mutual confidence. (Hear.) They should consider themselves as one, —for it was as one they were able to do good. The division which induced mistrust, from whatever quarter it came, would be the means of depressing all mental energy, and of withholding the pecuniary resources which were necessary to support what the mind suggested as desirable. He had great pleasure in co-operating in this movement,—and hoped it would be “one and all.” They were indebted to their good friend, Mr. Scott, for going so largely into the subject. He did not think it necessary to inquire whether they should go on,—they were committed to the question; and it would be a disgrace to do anything that would disparage them in the estimation of Government. He believed in the sincerity of the Committee of Council; and it was the opposition they met with, in another direction, which prevented them from doing more. (Hear.) In conclusion, he called upon them to carry out the measure in order to secure the liberty of conscience to all those who otherwise might be under the necessity of going for education to the National Schools.

The LORD MAYOR OF YORK said, he had been called upon to support the resolution, which was a duty as gratifying as it was easy, since Mr. Farmer had made the speech upon it. For forty years, at least, he had felt an attachment to schools, and a desire to see education promoted and propagated; for “knowledge was power,” and wherever good knowledge

was imparted to youth, it was reasonable to hope that, in riper years, it would produce the fruits of good living. In reference to raising the £2000 he saw no difficulty; if apportioned among the circuits it would soon be procured. When he considered the importance of Christian education, he had no misgivings on the subject, especially when it was kept in mind that those educated at the Normal school would be the future religious instructors of our children. The great difficulty would be in the rural districts, from the opposition of the parish priests, many of whom were young, and tinctured with Puseyism. He referred in terms of warm commendation, to the recent charge of the Archbishop of York, Dr. Musgrave, who had given a severe blow to Puseyism, by the distinct way in which he had laid down the principles held by Methodists on justification by faith, and had shown the fallacy of justification by baptism. He then referred to the destitute state of the children of Irish emigrants, and described the means taken in York to afford them instruction and relief, observing, that the prevention of crime was better than its punishment, and that it was wiser to contribute hundreds and thousands to education, than expend them in prosecution and transportation. He concluded by seconding the resolution.

Mr. WALKER said, in visiting the schools, he had found some of the children very ignorant of the Conference Catechism; and, on appealing to the teachers the answer was, "We don't pretend to instruct the children *memorially*, but to instil the doctrines into their minds." Now he should like to have the catechisms in their memories as well as in their minds. (Hear.) If the children were instructed more in the Conference Catechisms, the system of education would be more Methodistically popular.

The Rev. T. VASEY said, there had been some ground of complaint of this nature;—the teachers had been disposed to exercise the intellect rather than to exercise the memories of their pupils;—but instructions had been given that they were to teach the text of the catechism, and according to the Model Deed, recognised by the government, the Conference Catechisms were to form part of the daily instructions in the schools, so that it was now legally obligatory. (Hear.)

The resolution was then passed unanimously.

Mr. KAY, after expressing his delight at the active measures now taking place for the extension of education, and at the happy progress already made, moved the following resolution:—

"That this Committee respectfully requests the Conference to take means for calling the attention of the circuits generally to the measures now taken to complete the organization of the Educational system, and to urge upon them the duty of taking corresponding measures, in the several localities, for providing means for the employment, to its full extent, of that enlarged agency, which will shortly be provided by means of the Normal Institution now in progress."

He hoped there would be a succession of meetings, not only in every district, but in every large town throughout the kingdom, to rouse the people to a sense of the duty they owed to themselves, to their children, and to the Church of God. A meeting held in Manchester had been attended with great success. In Methodism, they were not capable of doing anything as successfully as they ought, except by simultaneous influence which they exercised upon one another. He hoped this great movement would tend to the spiritual prosperity of the Connexion, and the general well-being of the country.

Dr. HANNAH had felt sincere gratification in listening to the report and

addresses, and especially to the luminous statement and powerful arguments of his friend Mr. Scott. He congratulated the meeting on the unity of view and feeling which prevailed on this most momentous question. He trusted the proceedings would lead to a rich and abiding result; and concluded by seconding the motion.

Mr. SCOTT observed, two things would contribute towards such a result. First, the times were better, and their friends were more capable of furnishing pecuniary means for the establishment of schools in their several vicinities; and then, as to the expense of schools, the committee had been led, in consequence of the augmentation afforded by government to properly qualified teachers, to recommend lower salaries.

The resolution was then passed unanimously.

Mr. CROOK anticipated, from this great undertaking, perhaps as much as from anything he was ever connected with in Methodism. He referred to the state of education in Liverpool, twenty years ago, when almost all the schools of that large town were in their power, and at present, when immense exertions were making by other religious bodies,—especially the members of the Establishment. He approved of the payment, during training, of £15 or even £20 by the students in the Normal Schools,—except in cases where it might be proper to remit it altogether,—hoping they would get as good if not a better education there than elsewhere,—and concluded by moving—

“That the thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. John Scott, the Chairman of the Education Committee; to James Hunter, Esq., and the Rev. John Rattenbury, the Treasurers; to the Rev. Thomas Vasey, the Rev. James Gilchrist Wilson, and the Rev. Michael C. Taylor, the Secretaries: to the Members of the acting Committee, for the zealous and faithful manner in which they had discharged the duties of their respective departments during the year.”

The Rev. R. YOUNG seconded the resolution. He had read the last printed report, and must say, the officers of the society had done their duty, and had done it well. It was one of the most statesman-like documents he had ever perused, and had been largely circulated in the West of England. In the Penzance Circuit, two schools were in effective operation, the children made encouraging progress, and many of the elder scholars were under a powerful gracious influence.

The resolution was then passed unanimously, and acknowledged by Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. HEALD, in consequence of a general call from the meeting, came forward to address it. Very little remained for him to say; he should merely express an opinion on one or two points. He had a strong conviction that they ought to obtain, from candidates for admission into the Normal School, some adequate payment towards defraying the expenses. (Hear.) He would not tie the committee down to the exact sum; but he saw no reason why it should not be something like the amount charged by other bodies in similar institutions. (Hear.) They ought to hold up the standard high, and convey an impression that their institution was to rank as one of the most eligible, important, and efficient educational establishments in the country. He pointed out the difference in the principle upon which it was founded, between the Normal School and the Theological Institution. There was an essential difference between calling men to the work of the ministry, and qualifying them for the office of teachers; and he thought few would be recommended as candidates, by any locality, who had not some friends, to contribute towards their support.

£90 a year for 100 students would be £2,000 per annum; at the same time, he would leave the committee to give assistance in cases of native talent connected with poverty and destitution. (Cheers.) In conclusion, he reminded them, that they had come forward, in such a manner, before the government and the country,—had invited public attention by selecting such a locality,—and had received such a grant, as rendered it imperative upon them to provide one of the most effective establishments in her Majesty's dominions.

The proceedings then closed.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE OF REVIEW.

This important committee assembled on Tuesday, the 24th of July, in Oldham-street Chapel. The President in the chair. The attendance was as usual very numerous.

The Rev. Dr. BEECHAM read the minutes of the several committee and sub-committee meetings which have been held in London during the year, which presented a general view of the society's operations, and the resolutions which passing circumstances caused the committee to adopt. Special reference was made to the home expenditure, upon which subject some explanations were offered. The salaries of the missionary secretaries were stated to be only £150, the same amount as is received by preachers in the First London Circuit, and the additional expense in this department, was occasioned by the circumstance, that the houses of the secretaries were occupied, not by them only, but by returned missionaries, and others who were about to start to the mission field. The question of reducing the number of secretaries was then entertained; but it did not appear that a due regard for the interests of the society would allow of it. If, eighteen years ago, there were three secretaries, when the number of mission stations was 156, the number of missionaries and assistants 218, the number of members 43,000, and the income of the society only £52,000, it would be difficult to make it appear, that four secretaries were too many now, when the society's income was doubled, when the number of its members was more than doubled, when the number of its missionaries was 393, and the business of the secretaries and the committee has proportionately increased, by having now devolved upon them 290 central or principal stations, instead of 156, (hear,) the total number in 1831. The same remarks were applicable to the clerks and other subordinate persons employed; a small addition had been made to their number during the last eighteen years, but not in proportion to the increase of business. One of the additional number was a travelling agent, the importance of whose services was strikingly shown, and whose expenses were more than paid by the result of his visits. The committee resolved, that, having briefly examined the different items of the balance-sheet, and having received various explanations from the treasurers and secretaries, it approved of the continued economy shown in the printing and general management of the society.

The expenditure of the society, up to the 30th of June, was £41,003, being £3,471 less in the amount of expenditure at the same period in 1848. The treasurers were now in advance £32,554 10s. 6d. The committee regretted to say, that they did not see it prudent and practicable to effect any extension of the missions under their care, except in cases where there was a reasonable ground to hope that no additional expenses would be brought upon the funds of the society. The additional number of missionaries required was fifty.

Dr. BUNTING would take the opportunity of stating to the committee, that he had received a painful letter from the Mission-house, referring to the very serious and dangerous illness of Dr. Alder. The history of the case, so far as he knew it, was this: During the late examination of candidates in London, according to usual custom, a number were sent to Dr. Alder's house. One of them, Mr. Bryant, son of their late brother, the Rev. John Bryant, who died in Devonshire, was seized with Asiatic cholera of the worst form, and it was by the medical gentlemen accounted a special interposition of Providence, in answer to prayer, that he was at all recovered. This naturally produced a very painful effect and shock on the mind of Mrs. Alder, and both she and Dr. Alder had ever since been seriously unwell. Mrs. Alder was much better, but in Dr. Alder's case the results were likely to be more permanent. Dr. Bunting then read a letter he had received from Mr Griffiths, one of the surgeons who had attended Dr. Alder. It stated that the Dr. had been delirious for three days, and had been in a state of great danger,—so great, that he (Mr. Griffiths) had visited him several times a day, and one night his son remained with him in the house. On Monday the improvement was very marked, mentally as well as bodily. On Tuesday, he pronounced him out of danger unless some unforeseen circumstance interfered, but his attendance at the Conference was out of the question. Dr. Bunting read a letter from the Rev. Mr. Hoole, enclosing a letter from Mr. Griffiths, sent to him. Mr. Hoole had been to Hatton Garden on Sunday afternoon, but Dr. Alder was too weak to be seen. The complaint came after the cholera, for he had had the cholera, but only of common English character. Mr. Hoole was not equal to the journey to Manchester, and to attendance on the committee. Dr. Bunting concluded by recommending Dr. Alder and Mr. Fowler to the prayers of the brethren.

The CHAIRMAN said, he had pleasure in saying, that Mr. Fowler was better that morning.

Dr. BUNTING said, that two of their principal servants, Mr. Adam, the shipping agent, and Mr. John Wesley, the accountant, were both laid up with the English cholera, so that Mr. Hoole was placed in an embarrassing situation.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT rose and spoke as follows:—I feel it on my heart to say a few words on the subject that is presented to the committee, in a very late portion of the Minutes,—the Secretaries' salaries. (Hear.) I find that it has been very extensively spread abroad, that an enormous amount of money is paid to the secretaries and for their establishments,—that there is a great waste of public money in those items of our expenditure, and great extravagance. I am not one to lightly tax anybody with a bad heart or bad feeling, but I think the *animus* of those representations may appear, if I just state the case to the meeting. I find that statements have been put forth prejudicial to our Missionary interests,—for the attack is upon our Missionary interests, (hear,) upon the Missionary feeling of our connexion,—the parties making this attack know that the Missionary cause is dear to our people,—that they have supported it for years with great zeal and liberality,—that anything infringing upon their feeling in this respect would be likely to make a great impression;—that seemed to be the basis upon which the appeal is made. These statements were put forth in a "Fly-Sheet," three or four years ago, but no copy of it was ever sent to me as one of the Missionary Treasurers. I don't know whether one was sent to my friend and colleague, Mr. Farmer, but I never saw it *except incidentally*. I was down in the country, and one of my brethren

showed it to me. I took no notice of it, for I felt assured, that the representations it made were not true; and I supposed that if there was any serious complaint some brother, some *man* or other in the body, would come and ask the causes and so give us an opportunity of explanation, if there was anything that wanted explanation. (Hear.) The thing has run on I find, for three or four years, making its way in the connexion, and among our people, and I dare say among my dear brethren the ministers, until lately. I have found from several representatives, that there is a great deal of uneasiness about the matter; I find too,—and this is my principal reason for mentioning it,—they are printed in a book, which I was able the other day to buy in the book market, and therein I find a statement to this effect, that our missionary secretaries are costing us very much more than Methodist ministers cost the connexion,—that they are living in a state of great splendour and extravagance, in their several establishments,—and that our people, by their generous contributions to the missionary cause are paying for all this. Well, now, I would just say, if any person, friendly to the missionary cause, wishful to have anything cleared up, had felt any difficulty, if he would have come to us, especially if a minister of our body (hear)—if he had the heart of a disciple of Christ, and of a servant of God, in this great Missionary cause, and would have said, “I feel some conscientious scruples about those items that are inserted in your report; can you explain how this difficulty is to be met that has occurred to me?”—I am quite assured I should have been pleased to give him every explanation; and if he was a man at all entitled to such attention from us,—and I beg to say we feel the greatest regard for all our brethren,—Mr. Farmer and myself would have been willing to take him to our ledgers and show him our expenditure, item by item. I have to say on this subject, that, in that book there is a great misrepresentation set forth, as to the salaries of the Missionary Secretaries. One of my people in Islington said, that he had heard that Dr. Beecham had £800; some said it was only £500; but he had no means of contradicting it; and he wished, if it could, that it might be contradicted. The salaries of our Secretaries, as a great number of my brethren know, and I believe the gentlemen generally know, certainly the Missionary Committee know very well, are the same—(hear)—that is to say, they receive the same amount for their support as the venerable Mr. Reece received in City Road, as I received when I followed him, and those who followed him for many years; it was adjusted entirely on what the London circuits allowed to these Ministers. Some three years ago, it was thought desirable to put the items together; in the case of the Theological Institutions, a new arrangement was made as to the occupants of the offices there, and it was thought desirable to put the items of board and quarterage of Ministers, and their wives and servants together, in one round sum. It was tried at Didsbury, as well as at Richmond; then the Book Committee adopted the same plan; and the Missionary Committee last of all adopted it, and the payment now is, for each Secretary, £150, (hear, hear,) including the items I have now mentioned. (Hear.) This is the sum that Dr. Bunting receives, £150 a year, beside the house he lives in, including his quarterages, Mrs. Bunting’s quarterages, and their servant; and this is the amount that Dr. Beecham, and Dr. Alder, and Mr. Hoole receive for their services. This includes their board as well; of course, if there are children, then the children are in addition. (Hear.) Now this is the simple account of the salaries; and I wish the connexion may know it. Well, then, as to expenses for house rent and so on:—I think

the Minute that we have inserted in our Finance Committee books, fully explains the matter. There was a time, some four or five years ago, when these items were rather heavy; there was a time when we were sending out each year, twenty or thirty, and in some years fifty Missionaries: they were called up to London, and they resided for some time in the Secretary's house. Of course, coals, candles, and different expenses of that kind, increased by the continuance of these brethren in the house. But there were also returned Missionaries who came with their families, perhaps in a state of very bad health; and they resided for some weeks with the Missionary Secretaries, requiring a deal of attention, fires in the night, and so on. Well, of course, these accounts were very considerably augmented,—coals, candles, and such like expenditure, all of which is included in the one item of rents, rates, taxes, &c. Perhaps we might be wrong in "lumping" these things together; but still this is the explanation. Dr. Beecham has, in fact, two houses entering one into the other; but they were taken by the deliberative counsel of the Committee, in order that he might have those means of accommodation; and consequently the expense was large, and so it is to this day. (Hear.) In those years when so many Missionaries were sent out, you will find that the expense on those items was large; last year, when we had scarcely any Missionaries sent out,—(hear,)—you will find it is considerably reduced. (Applause.) If you look at all these things, it will account for the fluctuations we have had. Mr. Hoole, also, has been in a weak state of health, and some allowances have to be made on that account. I will put it to you whether the sum of £351, which each Secretary has cost the last year, is an enormous sum of money;—taking every thing into account, that is the amount of last year's expenditure. I feel exceedingly vexed myself, because of the systematic attempt making to prejudice the people against the Missionary cause, by attacking our Missionary Secretaries. If any member in our body has any objection to any one, let him state it manfully;—(hear;)—let him tell us what objection he has; let him meet us, face to face; and do not let him go and put in the Stockport paper, and certain other papers, certain things, intended not to stab merely the men at the Mission-house, but the great Missionary cause itself. (Loud applause.)

Mr. FARMER rose and explained why, when a minister had objected to the reading of the items of the expenses of printing and so on, he had requested that they should be given; though he quite knew that the Rev. Gentleman was influenced by a feeling of confidence in the committee. At the last Conference, one or two questions were put by individuals, indicating a desire to be satisfied as to certain points of expenditure. The answers that were then given were considered satisfactory in the meeting, but they did not appear to have been fully satisfactory in some quarters. He was not now saying whether it was his duty to consult those who, without name, thought proper to express dissatisfaction. But he had given a sort of pledge, that, so far as any individual should call upon him, he would go into the subject, and he would satisfy all minds as to whether there was any reason for dissatisfaction, and whether the circumstances referred to in the expenditure could be lessened. He did not say that there were not some points there, which, in a meeting like that then assembled, should not be given; but he would rather over-do the work than under-do it, because he would ever consider himself in such a meeting as in a meeting of one family. (Applause.) It was true, *he might be deceived*, there might be some aliens present—(hear, hear)—

but as a Methodist, he had ever considered it his great happiness to regard himself as in a family; if it were not so, he should not have committed himself, in the various ways he had, to the course he had pursued. (Applause.) He regarded those with whom he was associated as beloved brethren. (Hear, hear.) It was true, he was not so much attacked as others; but he had been subjected, he believed, to some insinuations. He had never thought it necessary, however, to notice them; because he endeavoured to act according to the dictates of an enlightened conscience as he could acquire; and, under those circumstances, he had committed his reputation, when he could do no other way, to Him in whom he had the fullest confidence, that he would protect both himself and it. (Hear.) At the same time, he would not, for one, whilst in office, endeavour to screen himself from the fullest investigation into his conduct. So long as he held office, he would endeavour to discharge the duties that devolved upon him, whatever might be the consequences, not because he belonged to this party or that,—he belonged to no party,—but because he belonged to the Methodist Society, which, he considered, was the best society. Without desiring to flatter the ministers, he considered them, as a body, the best in the kingdom; and the Society, in regard to its conduct and management, was as well conducted as any in the kingdom. If there was a defect,—and he hoped he would never stand up for their having attained absolute perfection, though they might be going on to it,—it would arise from the circumstance, that they had more in hand than they could do; (hear;) and they wanted to do what they had with fewer hands and less power, than was necessary to do it. That was the case with regard to the Missionary Society. He thought he should be more in his place, when the opinion of the meeting had been taken, as to what had been stated in the report,—he wished, however, before he proceeded further, that they should ask Mr. Irving to give his report, as that formed an element of discussion on a former occasion, for, although he had not taken the pains to read all that had been written, he could not avoid seeing certain charges that were made with reference to the Missionary Ship. They cleared themselves, to some extent, through the kind, persevering, able management of Mr. Irving, whose praise might be repeated, as it had been on a former occasion; and he now wished to call upon Mr. Irving to give his report of the “wines, spirits, and brandy.” (A laugh.) Let him give it as a man of business.

The Rev. GEORGE OSBORN—I hope we are to have no more about the wine or brandy, because that was settled last year. (Hear.)

Mr. FARMER—I ask for permission, as upon that occasion, to make a statement.

Mr. OSBORN—I hope we shall have no more anonymous attacks. If any person has a question to ask, this is the time to ask it. (Applause.)

Mr. FARMER—There would have been a Ship Committee held this morning, if circumstances had not prevented it; but the materials are in the hands of Mr. Irving, and it was but right that the committee should have the answer through him.

Mr. OSBORN—All I deprecate is, further replies to anonymous attacks; we have had enough.

Dr. BUNTING said on the subject of wine and brandy, that must remember these attacks were not all anonymous; in many cases, the Temperance Societies, or some of their too zealous members, had appended their own names to them, and there were placards and pamphlets

circulated with the names of leading members, or who professed to be, of Teetotal Societies.

Mr. OSBORN—I have no objection, so long as they are not anonymous. If any one wishes to fight, let him come out openly.

The CHAIRMAN—There are names. I can give you a large packet of letters, with names and dates to them. I may be permitted to say that it is an unfortunate circumstance that the explanations on the subject which Mr. Irving gave to the last Conference at Hull, were not reported as fully as some other subjects. I regret it exceedingly. I think it was very proper that the subject should be reported. (Hear.)

Mr. IRVING, after apologising for his late arrival, which had prevented the committee from being held, stated that he had had a letter from Capt. Buck, since he last met them in Conference, in which there was a full and particular account rendered, without Captain Buck knowing any thing of what had transpired. He had a full account of all the stores of the ship, of what had been expended, and of what remained for use in her, after returning from her voyage of thirteen months. The first time she sailed, of bottled liquor, ale, and porter, 140 dozens were put on board; 65 dozens were expended, and there remained on board, thirteen months afterwards, 75 dozens. (Hear.) There were 30 dozens of port and sherry wine put on board; 20 dozens were expended, and 10 remained after the voyage. Instead of a puncheon of rum, as reported, there was a hogshead put on board; the brandy could not be got for the use of the ship, without a large quantity of rum; but it was carried to Auckland and there sold. (Hear.) There were two gallons of Hollands gin, which were not broached, but were on board the ship now. (Hear.) Instead of a puncheon of brandy, there were 58 gallons; 33 were expended, and 25 remained after the voyage. (Hear.) He had had letters sent to him making various inquiries, which he did not think proper to answer; but as others had said, during the morning, if any person deserving attention had written to him, or had inquired anything about the *John Wesley*, from the laying down of her keel to her being despatched upon her voyage, he would gladly have given them information quietly. It would be seen, from the account he had given, that the expenditure had been moderate, when they considered the number of passengers that went out; and when they remembered that the ship was three times on shore, and required assistance to get her off, they would allow, that the expenditure of spirits and wines had been moderate indeed. (Hear.) It would be well just to give them an outline of the repairs of the *John Wesley*, after the accidents that she met with. From the account it would appear as though she had received very considerable damage, but he was happy to tell them, that the amount was but £41. (Hear.) A large sum was swallowed up in pilotage, assistance to get the vessel off, pieces of timber for the same purpose, copper to replace damaged sheeting; and the only charge for the labour of repairing the damage amounted to 48s., which was just six days work, at 8s. He had since learnt that she had sailed southward.

In reply to the Rev. Thomas Harris, Mr. IRVING stated again, that the first voyage occupied thirteen months.

Mr. WALKER asked what number of persons there were on board.

Mr. IRVING said, he believed eight Missionaries, seven wives of Missionaries, a servant, and two or three children. The crew was fourteen in number.

Mr. KAY, who had asked the same question, said, he had an impression

that the number was still larger; but the reports of those who wished to make a handle of the business, gave the number as much below what it really was.

Mr. SCOTT reminded them, that the number stated by Mr. Irving was for the out-voyage; but when the ship got to the far end, she visited the stations, and they could not tell how many people she might have on board in the course of such visits.

The Rev. THOMAS HARRIS said, that, in a letter he had received from his son, he had the information, that they hardly used any liquors; and, in one instance, when a man had been six hours at the wheel, and some brandy was conveyed to him, he would not take it.

Mr. OSBORN hoped they would not spend any more time,—it was wholly in vain to attempt to convince the parties who were concerned in the outcry. If they put one gallon of brandy upon the ship, they did as wrong, in the eyes of those people, as if they put 100, and questions of this kind must, therefore, be left to the free law of Christian liberty. He claimed the Christian liberty of using, or not using, those things, according to his discretion; and the same liberty he accorded to all men. (Hear.) He trusted the Committee would do what was right, under all the circumstances of the case, and spend more or less upon those or similar objects, according to requirements. Explanation upon the question of quantity, was beside the matter, and wholly in vain.

Mr. IRVING entered into further particulars respecting the stores on board the *John Wesley*. From Mr. Law's journal, they would find the water was often very bad. Besides, the "wreckers" required grog: it was the very life and soul of such men, in such a case,—(hear, hear)—what they called "Dutch courage." There had also been a deal of leakage,—for which 10 to 20 per cent. should be allowed. His own ships were sailed on the temperance principle, but when he took a man, as ship's husband, he engaged, by articles, to find him eatables and drinkables, and had no right to say—"I'll put no grog on board." New casks often turned the water sour. His own experience, from thirst and hunger, in his early voyages, taught him to put a good stock on board, and no ship ought to go to sea without a little of this kind. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. R. TABBAHAM said he had always felt great confidence in the Committee. He regretted, however, two or three things—first, that the explanations first given were not published before as extensively as possible; second, that the subject had been at all introduced that morning—he had hoped that it was done with for ever; and, third, that as Wesleyan ministers, they had not abjured all connexion with spirituous liquors, except medicinally. He thought the evidence in favour of the total disuse of intoxicating drinks was strongly corroborated by the statements made by Mr. Irving; and he, as an individual, should feel the utmost confidence in going to the ends of the earth without any.

Mr. FARMER said he did not think the report would have been complete without Mr. Irving's statements. His honoured friend who had just spoken had, he believed, the greatest confidence in the Committee. He ought, indeed, to suppose that there was scarcely one present who did not do so; but if there were, he would do all in his power to satisfy him, and would rather stand an hour in doing that than afford him an opportunity of making any injurious, incorrect, and unchristian statements. The Committee were willing to abide by their acts; they were but fallible men, yet they thought that their position should raise them

above the imputations of anonymous writers—(hear.) He felt sensible that, as their servant, he was but very imperfectly indeed discharging the duties they had committed to him; but he was willing to be taught, and he believed his colleagues cherished the same disposition—(cheers.) His own view was, that he would rather let the imputations pass by, and live on the reputation which he had acquired and the consciousness of his own rectitude (hear.) There was one point upon which he was desirous to give some explanation, and that was in reference to the houses of the Secretaries—especially that of their esteemed and venerable friend—he was going to call him father—(cheers)—Dr. Bunting. They ought to do more for such a man (cheers.) Their servants were not over-paid—they were meanly paid; and was there a society in the kingdom served by such a man as Dr. Bunting (cheers), who had made sacrifices for them which it was out of their power to repay? The consolation they had amidst all insinuations was, that they were guided by higher motives than those attributed to them (hear.) He hoped the subject would now pass over. He referred—as he had done before—to brotherly confidence to ensure the restoration of security and growing prosperity. The country needed Methodism as much as ever it did—(hear.) Methodism could do for it what nothing else could (cheers.) They had in their institutions the means of supplying the country's wants. He need hardly refer to what took place at a meeting of the London City Mission not long since, where it was stated that the best and most useful of its agents were furnished by the Methodist body—(cheers.) Let them not, therefore, be moved from their faith and their simplicity, but do all in their power to maintain and carry out the first principles of their religion. His hearty desire was to see Methodism prosperous. Let them be willing to admit that they were not perfect, but let them “go on to perfection” in everything they had to do, and in all their institutions; exercise that courtesy towards each other to which all were entitled, and that Christian charity which in some things they had not done; let them live at peace among themselves—be of one heart and one mind, and he was fully confident that they would not want support in their various institutions. Let them work in humble dependence upon Almighty God, and Methodism would flourish and advance more than it had ever done—(cheers.)

Mr. HEALD addressed the meeting, in a very able and energetic speech. He avowed his intense interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the Missionary Society. He considered the honour of its public officers essential to the maintenance of that welfare. After the investigations which had taken place, they had ample and satisfactory evidence that they had committed the management of their society not only to conscientious, but to able and faithful men. (Cheering.) Mr. H. then mentioned a very impertinent letter which had been written, because, after exerting himself quite up to his strength on a Missionary platform, he had just rinsed his mouth with wine and water! He concluded by moving—

“That, after hearing the Minutes of the Committee, which have now been read, and the copious statements which have been made by the General Treasurers of the Society, this Meeting expresses its entire and most grateful satisfaction in the judicious, able and truly conscientious manner in which the pecuniary affairs of the Society, as well as all its other affairs, have been and still are conducted, and its firm and *unqualified conviction* that the insinuations which have been alleged to the

contrary are founded on total misapprehension and mistake, if not on something which merits a much more severe appellation."

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH briefly seconded the motion. The committee had been sustained by the testimony of a good conscience that they had uniformly endeavoured to conduct the affairs of the society on christian principles.

The Rev. G. OSBORN—I hope some of our lay friends will say something on the point at issue to-day. The matter is said to have been decided by the preachers, and is understood now to be appealed to the laity. The miserable creatures who are not ashamed to concoct and publish their falsehoods in retirement, but are ashamed to speak them openly, or in the presence of the parties concerned, now admit that their case in the Conference is hopeless. They admit that in the Conference they are beaten;—they have no hope of success in that quarter: their appeal is therefore now to the laity. Failing to pervert the preachers, as they intended, they must have recourse to those who have the power, as they say, to crush the preachers, and destroy the connexion. A paper was distributed at the gates of this chapel, the other day, from which I will make the following extracts: "That the writers of the 'Fly-Sheets' were anxious to preserve the peace of the body undisturbed—(loud laughter and cheers)—is obvious from the fact that, with few exceptions, the circulation of those papers was confined among the preachers, and had they been desirous to stir up strife, or had their motives been mercenary, the publication of these documents, in the ordinary method, would have amply secured both these objects. It was hoped that, as the evils on which the writers animadverted, originated with, and were perpetuated by preachers"—I don't understand that, because, up to this time, the tale has been, that Dr. Bunting keeps the key of our consciences, and Mr. Heald, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Kay, and some others, keep the key of Dr. Bunting's conscience; they rule him, and he rules us. I never was a party, and don't know who was, to Mr. Heald's alleged ascendancy over Dr. Bunting. (Loud cheers.) As far as I understand this statement, it is wholly false. If this be an evil, it is an evil which we neither originated nor perpetuated. "This hope, however, (it is said,) has proved fallacious;" blessed be God that it has, (cheers,) and let all the people that care for the salvation of souls, and the extension of the kingdom of Christ, say "Amen." (A general response of "Amen.") Is it not monstrous, that the time which ought to be expended in devising means to multiply Missionaries, or in strengthening our auxiliaries throughout the kingdom, should be occupied by a number of men, who dare not show themselves, but are not too base to scatter fire-brand arrows of death wherever they have the opportunity? "With a few noble exceptions," (derisive cheers,) I would add a single syllable, and say, *ig*-noble exceptions, (cheers,) "the preachers have allowed themselves to be either cajoled or terrified into a measure intended to throw discredit on the statements contained in the 'Fly-Sheets,' and consequently to perpetuate the evils exposed." I, as the originator of the measure here spoken of, declare that this was not the object of it. The intention was, not to perpetuate any evil, but that every man might have a fair trial,—that those who might be accused should be accused by a responsible person, before a responsible tribunal, and dealt with accordingly. I contend for the principle of responsibility against an irresponsible and tyrannical press; and I give my brethren warning, that, if we succumb to a tyrannical press, the cause of Christ will soon be at an end. But these irrespons-

ble tyrants want all the liberty to themselves; they will give nobody else any liberty, not even any Christian liberty. I say "Christian liberty," because, as a Christian, I am restrained from many things which, as a Briton, I have a right to do. They won't let me, or Mr. Heald, drink a glass of wine—(laughter)—ride in a first-class carriage, as they say Dr. Alder does. They say Dr. Newton rides in a fourth-class. (A laugh.) To that, I reply, Dr. Newton, I suppose, pleases himself: that is what I mean to do—(cheers)—I don't mean to succumb to a parcel of irresponsible writers, who, on no occasion, will show their faces,—who never would show their faces. Christian liberty is to be tempered with Christian discretion: I mean to exercise my discretion as a Christian man; I mean to do as I please in all matters of this kind, where I am not bound by any Christian, or Methodistic law; and if I cannot be trusted to go in a first-class carriage, and to take a glass of wine when I think proper, I am not fit to be in your ministry. I won't be dealt with as a baby or an idiot. (Cheers.) I won't be prescribed to, as to what I should eat, or drink, or wear. I say, those men will allow us no liberty, but I stand upon my Christian liberty. I won't give it up, but will stand upon it, if I stand alone. (Loud cheers.) We must take our stand upon some principle. (Hear, hear.) The time is come when Christian men should discountenance, and put an end to, such abominations as this. It is not to be tolerated, that, after the experience we have had of all the years of service of our dear friends, (pointing to the platform,) that men should ask us to believe that they are rogues, for, in effect, they call them so. They would have us believe that Dr. Bunting—he must forgive me—

A VOICE—Don't repeat it.

MR. OSBORN—But I will repeat it, (cheers,) because some of you don't know it. They say that he is "idle," and "selfish," and "tyrannical" that he is "jesuitical:" that he has wound you round his fingers, till you are all slaves, and are afraid to cry out in your chains. They say in effect, that he is dishonest; employing the funds of the Missionary Society and the Contingent Fund to purposes of his own personal and party aggrandizement. This is what they say of Dr. Bunting. What do they say of Dr. Beecham? They insinuate,—they don't dare to say it,—that he is ignorant; that, like the whole batch, he is indolent; and, in point of fact, dishonest. Don't let us blink the question: let the thing come fairly out. There is the book, (holding a book up,) it is advertised for sale; it was, they say, confined to preachers; but now it is for the laymen,—for all the world, that will spend 3s. upon it,—and I feel myself in a condition to deal publicly with it. I should not care if all the reporters of the London press were here; if we are to have an appeal to the public, and must fight with men in masks, let it be an appeal to the public. (Hear.) There should be no shirking the question. (Loud cheers.) Let the issue be fairly tried. Are these men rogues, idle men, men who take your money and make use of it for their own purposes, preferring their own interest to the work of God? Are they men to be trusted and honoured, or ought they to be drummed out of the regiment? (Cries of "To be trusted and honoured.") That is the issue; let us have no mistake,—no bush-fighting. If these men are, what these writers say they are, they ought to have no place among us; but if they are the men that we know them to be—(a tremendous burst of cheering, which continued some minutes)—I am much obliged to you, (renewed and prolonged cheers)—I am not so blind as not to know what will follow all this, (repeated cheering,) and, on the other hand, I am not insen-

sible to the approbation of four or five hundred men like those now present. (Cheers.) If they are the men that we know them to be, let us stand by them, (cheers, and cries of "We will,") and put an end to this nonsense. (Hear.) Let us put an end to this abomination; don't let us have the connexion kept in hot water year after year. What is to be done in Kafirland?—in South Africa?—in New Zealand?—in vacant stations in the West Indies?—in old established missions in Ceylon?—These are the questions which ought to occupy us (loud cheers); but, instead of considering these questions, here we are, taking up our precious time with the questions whether one man rides in a first-class carriage, or a second—or whether another takes a glass of wine and water on a missionary platform,—or whether a third has a handsome set of book shelves?—and a variety of other questions, to which the men who propose them have not the courage to put their names. As for those dear and venerated men on the platform—(turning towards the chairman)—when I look at you, sir, and remember that you have just completed half a century of service to this connexion, and that there sits by your side, the friend of your early youth, in his native place, spared by God's mercy, through many a storm of opposition—(though perhaps not so wicked as this)—to instruct us, to guide us, to admonish and encourage us, after completing his half century of service; and when I remember that two of his colleagues in office are suffering at this time from severe affliction—(here Mr. Osborn displayed much emotion, in which the meeting largely sympathized)—forgive me if I feel deeply—(cheers)—I am indignant at being compelled to take such a line of argument. Don't allow such men to be clamoured down,—to be insulted. Let us take such a course, as shall satisfy these miserable, mean, dastardly men, in corners and in masks, that they have nothing to hope from the ensuing Conference. (Long continued cheering.) We shall have the question, among other questions, of Dr. Beecham's re-appointment. Notice was given last year that we should have this year to meet that appointment. I wish to put before the meeting a question that has occurred in the history of another Missionary society. Within the last year one of the excellent secretaries of the London Missionary Society, for some time the pastor of a church, has thought it his duty to resign, finding that his health was not equal to the discharge of both his official and pastoral engagements. This has necessarily occasioned some discussion in the community with which he was connected. The church was anxious to keep him, and the society not less so. The church passed certain resolutions which are reported in the *British Banner*, and upon which the editor of that paper makes the following observations, which should have the more weight as coming from a party who must be considered as not partial to our polity. I learned at school, *Fas est ab hoste doceri*; and, proceeding upon that principle, I would learn, and would have my brethren learn, how the question of localization and secularization is regarded in other quarters. The *British Banner* says—

"The document communicated to us by the deacons, on behalf of the church, is a document which is honourable alike to the church and to its pastor, doing the highest credit to both; but it is only candid to say, that, according to the bearing of that document, the affection of the church, has, to some extent, blinded its judgement. Its love for the pastor has, in part, quenched its zeal for the cause of heathen nations, with their populations of hundreds of millions. The cause of these has merged in that of the church at Barbican. Though credit is given to the

Directors for their motives, no allowance is made for their perplexity, and but little consideration is shewn for the overwhelming difficulty of their position with respect to a secretary for that most arduous function, the foreign office. The excellent church at Barbican,—Mr. Jackson at their head,—are, of course, by no means insensible to this; but they seem to have reached the ready and consolatory conclusion, "This is all very true, but that is the affair of the Directors!" Well! so it is; but is it in no respect the affair of the church? We submit it is, in a very high degree, that a distinguished honour is bestowed upon the church, in the opportunity which is thus furnished them of making such a sacrifice."

The argument is, that the church can better spare the pastor than the society the secretary. Here then, is a case of secularization,—the very thing which the men in "masks" have been the loudest to talk about, taking a man out of the ministry. (Hear.) But, I agree with Dr. Campbell that it is a great honour bestowed upon the church to furnish men for what he calls the foreign office. I admire and adore the providence of God which raised up Richard Watson, John James, and others,—men in humble stations of life, put them into the ministry, and gave them the qualifications for the peculiar duties they had to discharge. It is a great honour to us as a body of Methodist preachers, that from time to time, men have been found in our ranks competent to stand before kings and governors—to fight our battles in parliamentary committees, and to correspond with the various authorities of the country;—men who have never done us discredit, but have always done us honour. (Cheers.) I ask, what public appearance have these men made, on behalf of our body without doing us honour? (Hear.) I take the case of Dr. Beecham, and point to the West India Education measure, the Negro Marriage Bill, the New Zealand Colonization Company, the Committee on Aborigines, and subsequently the New Zealand land disputes,—on all these occasions, the work of Christ was defended, provision made for its extension, and sound views testified and diffused in high quarters. It was not too much to take the very language of this paper, and say,

"That a distinguished honour is conferred upon our church in the opportunity which is thus furnished to us of making such a sacrifice." (Cheers.)

The next point is, the continuous occupation of office by the same persons. Hear Dr. Campbell:

"Nothing is more certain than that the withdrawal from the Mission House of Mr. Tidman, could only be considered in the light of an overwhelming calamity,—so complete is his knowledge of the entire field throughout the globe, and of every station, as to its history, peculiarities, and present condition, as well as of the honoured men who occupy every sphere,—their labours and character, strength and weakness, adversity and success."

"So complete is his knowledge of the entire field." Ask our returned missionaries if this will not apply to Dr. Beecham. One of them told me, or rather, a Missionary meeting at which I was attending, that he was astonished at the extent of Dr. Beecham's knowledge, and thought that the Doctor knew his circuit in the West Indies almost as well as he knew it himself. Dr. Campbell continues—

"Now, in the administration of the vast system of the society's affairs, such a knowledge is absolutely essential,—so essential, that the loss of *it would be an evil that could hardly be repaired, and leave the directors*

in a state of the greatest difficulty. The acquisition of such knowledge is the fruit of many years of ceaseless toil, by a man endowed,—beyond the bulk even of superior men,—with a mind perspicacious, luminous, analytic, and all-grasping. The secretary has just now reached that point of experience and of practical knowledge, which renders his value above all price. Other things being equal, in his successor, the experience of some ten or a dozen years, at least, would be needful to bring him up to the same pitch of efficiency."

This is precisely what I say. Take any man who raises an objection to the re-appointment; put him in Dr. Beecham's place,—and where will he be,—and what will your work suffer? (Hear.) The withdrawal of such talent and knowledge would indeed be, as Dr. Campbell calls it, "an overwhelming calamity." Why should we refuse a re-appointment, merely to please some of these "men in masks?" Why should our work suffer for a period of ten or twelve years, while they are gaining the experience necessary to qualify them for the office? (Cheers, and "hear, hear.") I must apologize to you. I had no idea of entering at this length upon any topic. I rose with the object of asking our lay friends to do their duty. Let them pronounce: Will they back us? (General cheering, and cries of "We will, we will.") The Conference by the confession of the enemy has pronounced. Let the laity pronounce,—and God speed the cause! I know what they will say—but let them say it. (Continued cheering.)

The Rev. Dr. BEAUMONT rose and said: I feel it, Mr. President, incumbent on me, after the very miscellaneous address we have just heard, to say a few words. Mr. Osborn has indulged in that sort of language which he accuses others of having used; indeed, I do not find that those whom he charges have used language at all stronger. Is Mr. Osborn the person to stand up in such an assembly as this and find such fault as he has done with others? (Cries of "Yes," and "no.") It is, undoubtedly, true that Mr. Osborn is a gentleman who always acknowledges what he says and does, and is therefore entitled to the utmost admiration and imitation as far as that goes. (Hear.) But Mr. Osborn, in matters to which I believe he has attached his name, has taken leave to designate his brother ministers as "guilty, apathetic, and crotchety." Mr. Osborn tells you that some nameless persons have published letters, in which they have called some gentlemen upon the platform, "selfish, idle," and I don't know what besides, but something similar in name and bearing. Now, I put it to you to say whether or no the guilt of charging brethren, Christian brethren, ministerial brethren, holding fellowship with you, and part and parcel of the Conference—(great interruption)—if brethren will interrupt I cannot help it. (Cries of "Question.") I shall proceed and say what I have to say, so far as that kind of interjection will enable me or any one else to do. I say I put it to you or any honourable and well conducted person to say, whether or no the individual who charges his brethren with being guilty, apathetic, and crotchety, is just the man to come forward and groan and cry out that others have charged some of you with being idle, which, of course, can only be understood comparatively. And as to the charge of selfishness, of which he complains, I put it to you whether that is less or more than his charge of guiltiness?

Mr. OSBORN—I said "consciously guilty."

Dr. BEAUMONT—All the worse, therefore. It appears that I only quoted a part of his words; indeed, he must be a wonderful man who

could quote all he said. "Consciously guilty!" And so Mr. Osborn comes before a miscellaneous meeting, and, with that extreme modesty which attaches to him (laughter), charges his ministerial brethren with being guilty, and not *merely* guilty, but "consciously guilty" (hear.) I am not, in this assembly, going into the matter to which he has referred (renewed interruption, in which Mr. Osborn made some remark which was not heard). Dr. Beaumont continued—I used his own words—I took them from his own lips, and suffered him to be my corrector, adopting the very language which he put into my mouth (cries of "No, no.") If he is going to correct himself, let him do it; but I do say that that kind of address on the part of Mr. Osborn, in such an assembly as this, however much it may seem to take (interruption, and cries of "Question,") and win utterances of applause and approbation (loud expressions of dissent: when they ceased, Dr. B. said, "Now have you done?"). I was just going to ask if Mr. Osborn was the person to give himself the latitude he has? (Loud cries of "Yes, yes," and cheers.) Well, then, I think he is not. As to myself, I never write anything to which I do not put my name—(cheers.) I have not allowed myself to answer the imputations, and insinuations, and allegations about me; I have merely condescended to notice them. If I differ with my brethren, I differ with them face to face (cheers). I always have done so; I never did otherwise (hear); but I must say that the mode of attack adopted by Mr. Osborn, and which you seem to sanction (loud cheers, followed by a scene of great confusion. When it had subsided, Dr. B. said,—Is this the way to have public business honourably and faithfully met? (Renewed interruption) I merely consider it to be my duty to call attention to this great—(the clamour here rose to a great height; when it had partially subsided Dr. B. continued): If the meeting does not allow my reply, I bow, of course, to its decision; but it ought not to have allowed him to go to such lengths. If it allowed him such unbounded latitude, is it right to check any one who thinks it desirable for the cause of God to interpose a word? I must think, although it is inconvenient, you ought to listen to my reply; but as you will not, I shall not trouble you (hear.) And now to the business on hand. I would not trouble you with that either but that I am charged to do so (confusion.) I hope I may be allowed to express my—"No, no," and renewed interruption.) Is this orderly?—is it gentlemanly?—is it enlightened?—is it Christian-like to proceed in this way? I hold in my hands a letter—

A MEMBER of the Committee asked if it referred to the Mission work?

Dr. BEAUMONT—It does. I listened to the minutes read this morning with great attention, but there was no mention made of China. It is true that we have a sub-committee upon the subject of a mission to that great empire, and I happen to be one of that Committee; but I am not aware that they have been once summoned. That being the case, I was not surprised that no mention was made in the report of China. The letter which I hold in my hand is from there, and I merely wish to read a very short extract from it. It is from a missionary at Shanghai. He says:—"When shall we have any Wesleyans itinerating in this extensive country?" He continues—"There is room for you (i. e. Wesleyans.) You are, perhaps, already aware that the American Methodists *have anticipated* you, and are active in the field. When shall we find *English followers* of John Wesley coming forward to the help of the

Lord—to the help of the Lord against the mighty, commissioned to preach the good tidings of great joy to these myriads? Do, dear Dr. Beaumont, urge your Society to move in the matter, and if my services can be of any value, in any way, here am I.”—(cheers.) I do not wish to detain the Committee with any remarks on this letter. I am aware that the subject is not new to them, but that it is not just now convenient, because it is not practicable for the society to take up that field of labour. But I know that Mr. Farmer, who has done himself great credit by the Christian manner in which he spoke this morning, feels warmly on this subject, and whose money is already in your exchequer; there are, too, many other friends in the Connexion who have similar feelings; and I hope that there will yet come a favourable conjunction of circumstances and dispositions to enable this great society to have its agents in that vast country (cheers); for although there are six other missionary societies, and God is blessing them to as great a degree as in any other amount of human nature, whether on this side of the globe or the other—and there is in that human nature that to which Wesleyanism is the very thing needed—and I am sure that in that immense territory of China there's a large slice for you some fine morning. May God hasten its arrival.—(Cheers.)

Addresses, chiefly in moving and seconding, or acknowledging, votes of thanks, were afterwards made by Mr. Walker, Mr. Heald, Mr. Chappell, the Rev. R. Reece, Mr. Riggall, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Crook, the Rev. G. Marsden, and Dr. Bunting.

Towards the close of the proceedings, Dr. WOOD stated, that his beloved and honoured Father—the late James Wood, Esq.—had bequeathed £500 to this noble Institution.

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

The Committee of this important Institution assembled on Tuesday evening, July 24, at half-past five o'clock.

The Rev. JONATHAN CROWTHER, the General Secretary, read the Reports of the House Governors, Tutors, and Examiners. From these Reports it appeared, that during the year seventy-two students have been under training for the future exercise of the Christian ministry. All these, we need hardly remind our readers, have been sent to the Institution, accredited by their respective Quarterly Meetings, as young men of piety, and promising gifts, recommended by the District Committees who examined their qualifications, approved by the London Committee of Examination, and as such accepted by the Conference, as candidates for the Ministry. The Reports of the Rev. Samuel Jackson, and the Rev. John Bowers, the House Governors, were highly gratifying. From Mr. Bowers' Report we learn that the students, at Didsbury, regularly visit 800 families, residing in six of the adjacent villages, amongst whom they distribute tracts, and engage, as opportunity offers, in religious exercises. In one of those villages, a revival of religion has taken place during the year: in another, special services have been held with beneficial effects, and, in all, there is reason to believe that these visits of the students are, more or less, useful to the people. The labours of the students on the Sabbath days, in preaching the gospel, holding prayer meetings, &c., are known to be very useful.

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR, one of the secretaries, read the financial report, from which it appeared, that there had been received, during the past year, as subscriptions, from the laity in Great Britain, £1,745 Os. 9d.

from ministers in Great Britain, £207 17s.; and from missionaries on foreign stations, £61 3s. 4d. The total amount of interest was £1,058 4s. 2d.; from the Mission House there had been received, for the support and training of 17 students designed for the mission work, £975 2s.; from the Book Room a grant in part of £500; from students, £64 4s. 2d.; from class-money at Richmond, £14 7s. 11d., and at Didsbury, £13 8s. 9d.; from pew-rents at Didsbury, £14 19s.: amounting, in all, to £4,654 7s. 3d. The disbursements, (including the balance due to the treasurer last year, of £1,084 15s. 6d.,) were as follows:—Expenses at Richmond, £2,104 16s. 5d., and at Didsbury, £2,450 12s. 11d.; Miscellaneous expenses, £201 19s. 9d.; total, £6,841 19s. 7d.: leaving a balance due to the treasurers of £2,197 14s. 4d.; towards which other items of income, amounting to upwards of £400, were available, and, in round numbers it might be stated, there would remain a debt on the current account of about £1,800. The total income of the institution was about £4,500 per annum. It had been agreed by a committee of the institution, that it was desirable to make a new canvass for subscriptions in January next, as there are yet about 100 circuits which contribute little or nothing towards its support, and some important circuits contribute but a very trifling amount.

Mr. JOHN BURTON, of Manchester, moved the following resolution:—

“That this meeting gratefully acknowledges the satisfactory evidence which is afforded of God’s continued blessing on the officers of the institution, and on the students under their charge; and, with thanksgiving to God, accepts such evidence as a divine stimulus to its continued and still more liberal support.”

He felt unable to say much on the subject; but he trusted the institution would go on and prosper, because of its great value to the Connexion.

The Rev. GEORGE MARSDEN seconded the resolution. The reports which they had heard were of a most pleasing character. He believed the young men were under a blessed influence. Their public labours were very encouraging. Services were conducted, on each Lord’s day, by nearly the whole of them; they also held prayer-meetings after the evening preaching; and there was great reason to rejoice in the prospect of their future usefulness.

The resolution, (as well as those which were subsequently proposed,) passed unanimously.

Mr. J. R. KAY had so frequently taken a part in other committees, that it appeared almost unseemly for him to address that meeting. He hoped, however, that his appearance there would be regarded as an evidence of the deep interest he felt in the institution, and in every other part of the system of Methodism. He proposed—

“That this meeting greatly rejoices in the advantage which the institution continues to derive from the valued superintendence and counsels of its honoured president; and respectfully tenders to him its most cordial acknowledgements, for the important aid which he has rendered during the year, in furtherance of the object for which the institution has been established.”

He was not given to flattery; but he knew of no terms in which he could convey the feelings of respect and veneration which he entertained for the eminent minister who was the honoured president of the institution. Among other things worthy of notice, there was one which was to him *an astonishing phenomenon*, namely, that we had so many ministers *among us, who, at so great a sacrifice, devoted themselves to the public*

work of the connexion; and among them all, there was no one who had more eminently distinguished himself than the Rev. Dr. Bunting. (Hear.) It was painful that the ministers whom they loved should be made the subjects of invidious remark; but he was grateful to have met with such an unanimous feeling respecting the president of the institution. He might mention, that some days ago, the respected Secretary of the Conference, the Rev. J. Fowler, gave expression to this feeling; and he was the more happy to name this, because that reverend gentleman was absent through indisposition. (Hear.) He should be glad if some of the young men who were sent to the institution, could have a greater amount of preparatory training. He wished to urge this upon the ministers and friends in circuits sending out such young men. He should be sorry if anything he had ever said should be detrimental to the interests of Methodism; and concluded by saying, "I am with you in heart and in soul, and hope to live and die a firm and attached Methodist." (Hear.)

The Rev. THOMAS WAUGH felt it a high honour put upon him to be called to second that resolution. He congratulated the meeting that such a proposition had been brought forward. When first the honoured president of the institution was appointed to that office, he (Mr. Waugh) knew that it was not for his own sake; he knew that, from the first, he had filled the office for the sake of Methodism. (Hear.) He had watched with the greatest care, over its interests; his influence had tended to its support; and they had great reason to be thankful for his continued mental vigour. (Hear.) All there, he believed, were right-hearted, and offered their acknowledgements to him for the important aid rendered in furtherance of the objects of the institution. It had been a great blessing to the connexion, and, he trusted, it would continue to be so, to the latest generation.

After the passing of the resolution,

The PRESIDENT, addressing Dr. Bunting, said—My dear friend, the honoured President of the Theological Institution, it gives me an amount of pleasure, beyond what I know how to body forth in language, when I tell you, that this large meeting have tendered to you,—and requested Conference to tender,—its hearty thanks for your valuable services, and you are most respectfully requested to accept the same.

Dr. BUNTING would assure the President, and his Christian friends, that he knew how to appreciate—though he was not able to express—his sense of the kindness, of which they had conveyed to him the expression, in that resolution. The only drawback to this pleasure was, that he knew it went far beyond what he deserved. A very large amount of it was owing to the governors and teachers of the two branches of the establishment. He was not able to do much, and yet he would say, that he was not an "idle" man. He thought he might say to that Committee—though he would not say it to his heavenly Master—that he had "done what he could." He had seen as much of the institution, during the year, as it was possible for him to see;—he had endeavoured to learn impartially the working of it;—and he had unmixed satisfaction in bearing his testimony to the spirit and efforts of the governors and tutors in both branches. He believed that both were in as good a state as could be expected. On the whole, there was great reason to thank God, that they had the privilege and honour of affording to the rising ministry of the body, facilities for the work to which God had called them. The trials that had occasionally arisen from individual students had not been more numerous than it was reasonable to expect; and,

when they had arisen, discipline had been beneficially exercised, and had proved itself a means of grace and an ordinance of God for religious improvement. He knew nothing that had not given him satisfaction during the past year. They were highly favoured in reference to the eminent men who had been labouring for the connexion in this institution. Such men ought not to be looked upon with jealousy, or unfriendly criticism; but with gratitude to God. They had been given of God to the connexion for this work. He honoured them exceedingly, and should be ashamed to take any part of the honour due to them. The Rev. Doctor then adverted to the munificence of Mr. Farmer in presenting to the Richmond branch of the institution the beautiful statue of John Wesley; and he trusted the name of the giver would ever be held in delightful remembrance by the followers of that venerable man. He also adverted to the munificence of the late Mr. Hargreaves, by which the committee had been enabled to increase the Library at Didsbury. Such instances of Christian kindness deserved to be remembered. He next urged his brethren in the ministry to be particular in including, in their intercessory supplications,—at least once every Lord's day,—the rising ministry of the connexion. He knew that this was done in other religious bodies, as well as privately by many of their most devoted members. It had been jocularly said, of some churchwarden, that he had introduced into his accounts an item, "for mending the creed, repairing the liturgy, and making a new Lord's prayer;"—(smiles;)—now, they could not mend their liturgy, but why should they not pray for their rising ministers in what he might call their own extempore liturgy? He rather thought some of them had a sort of liturgy;—they generally included the Queen, the parliament, the nation, the universal church, and such topics, in their supplications; and why not introduce a petition for their rising ministry? (Hear.) They knew the value and power of prayer: let them, then, remember the rising ministry at large, whether in or out of the institution. This would have a reflex influence upon the thinkings and prayers of their people. He should be glad to retire from his present position; but should, nevertheless, feel a warm and continued interest in the institution. He must be allowed to introduce a word in commemoration of his early friend—the late Mr. Wood, one of the treasurers, who had done a great deal to serve the institution during his life, and had bequeathed a legacy of £500 towards its support. He hoped that wealthy friends would not forget this example: it was a way of doing good very needful in the fluctuating circumstances of trade. He hoped, also, that other friends would be their own executors to some extent, by increasing their annual contributions; and that his brethren at large would do more to help the institution. Hitherto, the support rendered had been very spontaneous; and, in many cases, unsolicited: but now, the institution must be allowed to take its proper place among the other objects of the connexion which were worthy of general support; and no man could be offended at being asked to subscribe to it. He should rejoice to see many small subscriptions, as an evidence of the interest felt by the body of the people in its welfare. Whatever might be the arrangements of the Conference,—whether he were in or out of office,—the institution would have his dying prayers and best wishes. The Rev. Doctor sat down, amidst much applause, but immediately rose, and added,—that the institution had one peculiarity. In each branch *there was a minister*, whose special duty it was, to watch over the *religious interests of the young men*. Pastors of other churches had

expressed their views of the importance of this arrangement, and thought, in this respect, the Wesleyans had an advantage over others.

Mr. WM. TURNER, of Derby, moved—

“That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to the Rev. S. Jackson, and the Rev. John Bowers, the House-Governors;—to the Rev. Thomas Jackson, and the Rev. Dr. Hannah, the Theological Tutors;—and to the Rev. John Farrar, and the Rev. W. L. Thornton, M.A., the Classical Tutors,—for the diligence and ability with which they have discharged the duties of their respective offices during the past year.”

He felt unfit to speak to the resolution, but he gave his hearty support to that and every other branch of the work of the Connexion. The young men he had heard from the Institution gave such evidence of improvement, that he considered the people at large had cause to be thankful for it.

Mr. THOMAS WALKER, of Cheltenham, in seconding the resolution, said—he had visited the Institution with much pleasure. There was, however, one thing which he would suggest, and that was, whether the parents and friends of the young men, sent there from time to time as students, ought not to subscribe more towards their support. It struck him, that parents would give to the same class of young men a considerable sum to push them on in any branch of business: was it not almost too much to expect [Ministers would solicit subscriptions when the parents could do something themselves. He knew a case, where a parent ought not to have put down “*in forma pauperis*” in the schedule which requires a return as to pecuniary means. One thing more. He was glad to hear the remarks upon the superiority of the Institution, as having a spiritual Governor in each Branch. There had been a fear, at first, felt that the young men might lose their zeal and fire in their studies: that fear was entirely removed from his own mind, and he hoped the plan would never be given up.

Mr. J. D. BURTON supported the resolution. He knew that the officers at Didsbury deserved thanks, and he was satisfied that they did also at Richmond. He should be glad to help the Institution in anything, and would venture to suggest, that one means of obtaining an increase of income was by subscriptions. He thought the time had come, when a strong effort should be made to increase the means of support. Nothing could be reduced in the expenditure except the quarterage and the number of the students,—neither of which ought to be diminished; but he thought that by suitable applications, an additional thousand pounds per annum might easily be raised.

The resolution having been passed,

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH expressed his cordial thanks for this mark of kindness. He was conscious of manifold infirmities; but he accepted the vote with gratitude, and as a stimulus to greater effort; and would strive, by God's blessing, to promote the improvement of the young men. He trusted, that while it pleased God to spare the life of their valued friend Dr. Bunting, he would continue to be the President of the Institution. He felt particularly on that point. The Doctor and himself were the only two individuals remaining who were associated, as officers of the Institution at its commencement. He should not like to be left alone, but wished always to address Dr. Bunting as *his* President.—(Hear.)

The Rev. THOMAS JACKSON very gratefully acknowledged the kindness

expressed by the vote. When, seven years ago, the Conference appointed him to the office of Theological Tutor at Richmond, he thought they were dealing rather hardly with him. He was then bordering on sixty years of age, and felt that the office would be onerous. But, after labouring in it seven years, he was thankful to God for the honour. He had been led to examine, more fully, various points of doctrine, discipline, and order; and, he thought, he understood those pertaining to Methodism better than before. A more minute acquaintance with them had only tended to confirm his attachment to Wesleyan Methodism, which, he verily believed, came nearer to apostolic Christianity than any other system. Though he had been very hard pressed, and for four years his mind had been on the stretch, like a man running a race,—yet he had been amply rewarded. He had seen many young men come to the institution, who had had few early advantages; but after a few weeks, he had beheld the sparklings of intelligence in their eyes, as they became acquainted more fully with the system of divine truth; and, not only their christian piety, but the acquaintance with that truth which they evinced, led him to hope for great benefits to the church of Christ. He concurred with Dr. Hannah, as to the President; hoped he would be still continued in that office;—considered his counsels exceedingly valuable;—and could not refrain from bearing this testimony, when he remembered the reflections,—he might say, the sinful reflections,—which had been cast upon him. (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. L. THORNTON, from the peculiar circumstances in which he was now placed, thought it likely that he should not have another opportunity of speaking in such a committee, in the review of duties that he had sustained in the institution. He was grateful for the kindness evinced towards him during the last eight years; and grateful to God that his services had been at all useful to the students and to the church. Though he felt a deep sense of his unworthiness and insufficiency, yet he rejoiced in having a conviction, that he had endeavoured to communicate, to more than a hundred students,—who, during the last eight years, had passed through the Didsbury branch of the institution,—some useful knowledge. (Hear.) He prayed for grace to render all the services he could to Methodism, in the name of Christ, either in that or any other office, and he only regretted that he could not serve it better.

The Rev. S. JACKSON also felt obliged by their kind expression of approbation. He had never sought the office which he held;—he had never desired, or even thought about the position to which they had called him;—but when it was proposed to him, it seemed, under all the circumstances, like a call from heaven, and he felt obliged to listen to it. He felt his office to be one of fearful responsibility;—it was no sinecure;—(Dr. BUSTING—“You are *in* the work;”)—there had been difficulties; yet not more than any reasonable man might expect; and there had been a thousand circumstances which had cheered his heart. He had always thought they were right in having an institution. (Hear.) It would have been inconsistent for him,—after what he had said respecting the care of the young in general,—if he had not supported the institution where men were to be trained to take such a care upon them. They had nothing to do, but to abide by the discipline of the institution, to walk by rule, to trust in God,—and God would be with them. (Hear.) There was one other thing. He had felt some solicitude and anxiety respecting the young people of the connexion. He considered it to be a solemn duty to do something for them, and should not like to remain where he

was, unless he were at liberty to communicate his views more fully to the young men, if spared another year. If any persons apprehended that they were training up "Young Gentlemen,"—effeminate characters—(Hear, hear,)—in the institution, such persons were greatly mistaken. They were trying to fit them for something better, even to "endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ." (Hear.) He hoped the President would not entertain any thought of retirement. He was obliged to him for the help which he had rendered; and trusted that the blessing of God would rest both upon him and upon the institution.

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR should condemn himself if he were not sensible of their kindness. He had served the institution for ten years, as well as he could, and had had to prepare himself for it by severe effort; but he felt thankful that his services had been so kindly acknowledged.

The Rev. JOHN BOWERS thought it right, in the first instance, to acknowledge that, through the goodness of God, his health had been restored, during his residence at Didsbury. He had now survived the early difficulties connected with the office to which they had appointed him, and he regarded the last as the happiest year of his whole life. He had had nothing but comfort and encouragement, in his intercourse with the young men: no circumstances had occurred as a drawback to his pleasure. Now that the first term of his service had expired, he might say, that he had felt deeply respecting the remarks made upon his appointment: he had felt the unkind manner in which that appointment had been commented upon in certain anonymous publications. The statements concerning him, contained in these publications, were utterly untrue. His brethren would pardon him, but he felt sensitive on that point. If he thought that his re-appointment would be disagreeable to his brethren, he would earnestly beg to be removed. He would meet any imputation or charge, by whomsoever brought, face to face; if not so brought forward against any individual, it ought to be withdrawn. (Hear.) He felt it to be his duty to reiterate all that his predecessors had said respecting the valuable services of his dear and honoured friend, Dr. Bunting,—whose counsels and services to the institution were invaluable. An allusion had been made to the opinion of other religious communities on the importance of the office of Governor, which led him to refer to the opinion of the Rev. J. A. James, of Birmingham, expressed in a paper delivered by him to ministers of his own denomination, that the Wesleyan body possessed, in that respect, an advantage of which similar institutions, in other bodies, were destitute. He felt, day by day, the solemn responsibility of the office; because, while he admired the assiduity of Dr. Hannah and Mr. Thornton, in communicating theological and classical knowledge, he ever felt that they ought to have a spiritual ministry;—that the greatest calamity which could befall them, would be an ungodly ministry, or one, in any respect, diminished in piety, zeal, and spiritual usefulness. He lamented his own inability to carry out those views more fully, in his intercourse with the students; but, if re-appointed, he should devote himself to the duties of the office with all his heart. (Hear.)

Mr. MARSHALL, (Mayor of Stockport,) proposed, and Mr. ARCHIBALD VICKERS, seconded, a vote of thanks to the general and local treasurers of the institution. The latter gentleman remarked, that he trusted they would soon have a clear sky in Methodism: what some of them had feared was only a thunderstorm, which would soon pass away.

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR, having briefly acknowledged the vote, and

mentioned the valuable assistance rendered him by Mr. J. D. Burton, was followed by

Mr. FARMER, who said he would state to the meeting, before he sat down, the chief reason of his staying to the close of its proceedings. The principal part of his duty, as treasurer of the Richmond Branch, had devolved on his son-in-law, who, he hoped, might show himself, as he believed he desired to be, worthy of the confidence reposed in him by that appointment. Any services that he (Mr. F.) could render would be gladly afforded. He could not but notice what was said by Mr. Bowers, touching his views of duty in his important office; and fully believed, that the same feelings and principles were entertained and were in operation among the other officers of the institution. A spiritual ministry was what they ought to aim at, and that idea could not be too frequently repeated. It was not merely to impart head knowledge, but heart instruction that they desired. He was happy to hear Mr. Bowers bear such a testimony respecting the young men;—happy that God was blessing them spiritually. He wished this to go forth, as the greatest security they could have for the institution and the ministry. Something had been said respecting their departed treasurer, Mr. Wood. It was not necessary to eulogise him in that city, where he had been well known and deservedly honoured. He (Mr. F.) should fail if he attempted to express his own views; but they were well expressed in a document which he wished to submit to the meeting. He then proceeded to read the following minute, expressing the deep sense which the Committee entertained of the piety, general character, and valuable services of the late James Wood, Esq., and their sympathy with his bereaved family; and moved, that a copy of that minute should be forwarded to them:—

“At a numerous Meeting of the General Committee of the Wesleyan Theological Institution, held in Manchester, July 24, 1849,

“Resolved, on the motion of THOMAS FARMER, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. Dr. BUNTING—

“That this Committee, at this its first meeting since the occurrence of that mournful event, desires to place upon respectful record, the lamented decease of JAMES WOOD, Esquire, of Grove-House, Manchester, late one of the General Treasurers of the Wesleyan Theological Institution.

“In so doing, this Committee, whilst it devoutly recognizes the solemn duty of submitting, though with mournful feeling, to the sovereign and gracious will of Him who is Head over all things to his Church, desires at the same time, to express its high and grateful sense of the Christian simplicity, integrity, consistency, energy, and zeal, which uniformly marked his general character, and its thankful and cherished recollection of the promptitude and efficiency, with which, in the various offices which he sustained, these qualities and virtues were, during a long and honourable life, consecrated to the support and advancement of the general interests of Christianity, and the peculiar discipline and institutions of Wesleyan Methodism. This Committee would especially, on this occasion, acknowledge its own deep-felt obligations, and those of the Connexion at large, for the important services he rendered, at a time when such services were peculiarly seasonable, as one of the first and principal promoters of the Wesleyan Theological Institution; and for the lively and active interest which he took in its prosperity, so long as the state of his health permitted him to do so,—both in his office as one of its general treasurers, and as a member of the Northern Local Committee.

“ Under these circumstances, this committee, merely directs its secretary, to forward a copy of this resolution to his surviving relations, with a respectful expression of its sincere condolence with them under this mournful bereavement,—together with its Christian congratulations on that ‘assurance of faith’ and ‘patience of hope,’ which, in the midst of peculiarly severe affliction, so eminently crowned his latter end,—and its earnest prayer on their behalf, that ‘the God of all comfort’ may be in this, and in every future trial, their strength and consolation, and may so sanctify to them this afflictive visitation, that it may be made conducive to their richer enjoyment of that heritage of blessing, of which the experience of their justly honoured and lamented relative, both in life and in death, exhibited so instructive and cheering an example; so that they may ultimately be partakers, with him, of the heavenly and eternal rest, to which, by the grace of God, he has happily attained.”

The Rev. Dr. BUNTING did not expect to be called upon; but, in seconding the proposal, he could not but feel deep emotion, in reference to one whom he had long and dearly loved, and who had been firmly attached to Methodism from early life. Though he had sometimes been in circumstances which would have tempted a man of principles less firm to conceal that attachment, yet he had never desired to conceal it, but had long borne a faithful testimony to Christian truth, and to his regard for Protestant interests particularly, and most particularly to Methodist interests.

The PRESIDENT adverted, in very feeling terms, to the loss which the Connexion had sustained by the death of Mr. Wood; and requested the Committee to evince their sense of it by standing up, to adopt the resolution.

The meeting rose simultaneously.

The Rev. S. JACKSON proposed the usual vote of thanks to the General and Local Secretaries, which was seconded by the Rev. JOHN FARBAR; who particularly adverted to Mr. Barrett’s services at Richmond, which led the PRESIDENT to make a similar allusion to the services of Mr. Crowther, at Didsbury.

Dr. BUNTING availed himself of that opportunity to state, that Mr. Barrett’s health was improving, and to mention a work of his, recently published, entitled “Christ in the Storm,”—which, though he did not consider the title the most happy, was well worth any man’s reading. It reminded him of what the Rev. John Clayton had said respecting his Saturday night book,—the life of Fletcher,—which he was accustomed to read, in order to prepare his mind for the duties of the Sabbath. Mr. Barrett’s book was of the same class:—there were passages of great beauty in it, and he was a man of no common mind.

The motion having passed unanimously,

Dr. NEWTON remarked, that he had been exceedingly gratified in observing the kind, christian, and brotherly feeling, manifested at all the Committees preliminary to the Conference. He had attended Conferences for many years, both in England and Ireland; but he had never witnessed a finer and more truly Christian temper than in the Committees which they were then closing. He took it as a token for good. The Doctor concluded by saying,—“The best of all is, God is with us; and he maketh men of one house to be of one mind.”

The proceedings were closed with devotional exercises.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25TH.

The One Hundred and Sixth Annual Assembly of the Wesleyan Methodist Ministers, was formally opened on Wednesday, the 25th of July, in Oldham Street Chapel, Manchester.

Exactly at nine o'clock in the morning, the President of the past year, Dr. Newton, rose and gave out a part of the 478th Hymn, beginning—

“ And are we yet alive.”

The PRESIDENT then read a chapter in Isaiah; after which, the Rev. GEORGE MARSDEN and the Rev. JOHN SCOTT engaged in prayer.

In point of numbers, the recent Conference was probably the largest ever held by the Wesleyan Ministers; and, though Oldham Street Chapel is a spacious edifice, yet some of the Ministers seemed to feel a little difficulty in obtaining seats within a convenient distance of the chair. It was somewhat amusing to observe the anxiety manifested on this point—in the midst of which the PRESIDENT said—“ This is, indeed, a *General Assembly*: I never saw such a one before.” The matter was soon settled after the usual manner, by calling upon the Ministers present to take their seats in the order of seniority, commencing with those who entered the ministry in the year 1796. After proceeding down to 1820, the remainder were left to provide for themselves. A number obtained comfortable accommodations in the front of the gallery, where temporary desks had been considerably fixed.—Altogether, about 580 Ministers were in attendance at the Conference.

THE LEGAL HUNDRED.

The names of One Hundred Ministers who constitute the Legal Conference, according to Mr. Wesley's Poll Deed, were then called over,—the Chairmen of Districts answering for such as were deceased or absent. Forty-three were absent, but as only 40 are necessary to constitute a house, a dispensation of absence was granted the absentees, though the President observed, that it deserved consideration whether they who absent themselves ought to be continued members of the Conference. It was ascertained that twelve vacancies had occurred in that body,—and it was announced that the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th, were to be supplied by election on the ground of seniority, from among men of equal ministerial standing, and by the votes of the Legal Conference only; and the 2d, 6th, and 10th vacancies were to be supplied by nomination and election, from among Ministers of fourteen years standing, or upwards,—all such Ministers being eligible to vote, but their vote being subject to the confirmation of the Legal Hundred.

The following are the results of the elections which ensued:—

By seniority,	M. C. Dixon,	in the place of J. Aslin, deceased.
By nomination,	G. Osborn,	.... M. Dunn, deceased.
By seniority,	A. Bell,	.... A. E. Farrar, deceased.
....	W. M. Harvard,	.... T. Garbutt, super.*
....	J. Shipman,	.... J. Mole, deceased,
By nomination,	P. M'OWan,	.... T. Padman, super.
By seniority,	W. Jewitt,	.... E. Parry, super.
....	L. Posnett,	.... J. Radford, deceased.
....	D. Evans,	.... J. Simmons, super.
By nomination,	W. Lord,	.... N. Sibly, super.
By seniority,	B. Frankland,	.... J. Waller, deceased.
....	B. Shaw,	.... B. Wood, super.

On these elections, it may be observed generally, that the men elected after nomination do not necessarily supply the place of men who were elected in the same way; and, on the other hand, the men elected by seniority do not necessarily supply the place of men originally so elected,—the whole of the elections being regulated on the principle that every fourth vacancy which occurs from whatever cause, in the Legal Hundred, shall be supplied by nomination, and the remainder by seniority.

The first individual nominated was the Rev. George Osborn, who was brought forward by the Rev. John Scott.

Dr. BUNTING observed that he should have nominated another minister, but as it was desirable to vote as much as possible altogether, he would not then name the individual.

Dr. BEAUMONT said: Having last year felt it his duty to nominate his friend, the Rev. Samuel Dunn, and knowing of nothing in his conduct that made him less eligible for the honour than he was last Conference, he would nominate him again.

The votes (by ballot) being taken, were:—

James Methley	1	Edward Walker	2
W. H. O'Croggan	1	B. Clough	5
W. M. Bunting	1	S. Dunn	20
J. Rattenbury	1	G. Osborn	260
Alexander Bell	1		

The Rev. GEORGE OSBORN, with evident emotion, said that 16 years ago, he had stood in the gallery of that Chapel, and taken upon himself the vows of the Lord to serve him faithfully and truly as a Minister of the Methodist Conference. He could not but remember, on an occasion like this, that his first acknowledgements were due to Christ Jesus our Lord, who had "counted him faithful, putting him into the Ministry." From his early childhood, he had been taught to consider the Christian Ministry as the most honourable and blessed of all human employments. He thanked God, that, so far, he had been enabled to deserve the good opinion of his brethren, and gave glory to Him only, that, by His preserving grace, he had attained to this "good degree" in the Church with which he was connected. As far as he knew himself, he had had but one object in view since he came into this Connexion,—that declared by Mr. Wesley to be the object for which the Methodists were raised up,—to promote the life of God in the souls of men. That was the governing principle of the Connexion, in subserviency to which all its movements were to be guided; and he had endeavoured to follow out that principle. He could not but

* *Super.* means superannated, which occurs when a member of the Hundred has been a supernumerary for four years.

advert to what had given rise to a remark that morning. (Here Mr. Osborn referred to some observation made by Dr. Beaumont, when he nominated Mr. Dunn.) In reference to this remark, he wished to say, that if he had not conscientiously believed that the interests of Methodism demanded the course he had taken, he would never have subjected himself to toil, expense, and persecution in doing what he had done,—and which, if needful, he would do again. He could not but fear there had risen up a spirit which would prefer peace to truth, and in some sense, sacrifice truth to peace. But he had been taught, that the wisdom from above is “first pure, then peaceable;” and he firmly believed that peace, at the sacrifice of truth, was not worth having at any price. What he had said was not against his brethren, as such; but against men who circulated slanders, and dared not to put their names to them. If these men were indeed brethren, let the Conference take care to rebuke them, and teach them to do so no more. (Cheers.) Such an election, under any circumstances, would have been gratifying; but it was inexpressibly so that day, because, as he believed, his brethren meant by it to say, that he had not done them wrong, or taken a course calculated to damage Methodism. (Hear.) That election gave him ground to hope that his brethren thought with him. If they allowed, without rebuke, a practical antinomianism to prevail amongst them, which slandered the men whom they delighted to honour,—which spoke one moment of walking with God, and then went into a corner to slander the brethren;—if they cherished such practical antinomianism,—that was a course which he regarded as opposed to the law of God. If the usefulness of Methodism was to be continued, they must have a sound morality,—and only for a sound morality had he contended. For that he was determined to struggle on, till he got a satisfactory solution of the great question which was now before them. It was no new thing with which they were called to contend;—no new trial, they had to endure:—no new battle they had to fight: their fathers had passed through a similar struggle. He did not refer to 1835, in which he had been himself an actor to some extent; but to 1795. Let any one read the pamphlets of that day, and he will be amused and edified by finding, in those pamphlets, the identical charges, almost *verbatim et literatim*, which have been brought forward of late. Look through them, and there will be found complaints that some twelve old men—yes, old men,—then, as now,—were “idle;”—that they employed younger men to work for them. There is also imputed to them a desire to swindle their brethren;—not, indeed out of the Mission Fund,—for it had then no existence, nor out of the Contingent Fund,—then of comparatively small amount; but out of the Preachers’ Fund. Well, then, what was done? Why, they had a “Test Act!”—and a bold young man proposed it. (Cheers.) “That which hath been, is now; and that which is to be, hath already been; and there is no new thing under the sun.” (Applause.) Why did he dwell on this? Because it encouraged them to do, as was then done too, “cast out the scorner, and strife should cease.” Their fathers had the benefit,—and so would they have.” “Let us,” (he concluded) tread in their steps, maintain their principles, bear their cross, and their God will stand by us.” (Applause.)

The Rev. Peter M’Owan was nominated by Dr. Bunting, and styled by him, “one of the working clergy.” He obtained 253 votes.

The Rev. P. M’OWAN said, he regarded his place in their ministry as a privilege only second to his being a child of God, through faith in *Christ Jesus*. The feeling of the Conference towards him, from the be-

ginning, had been characterized by kindness and condescension,—far, very far, beyond his deserts. He regarded the present honour as very undeserved. It would be easy for him to point to not a few of his beloved brethren, about his own standing, who could have served them more. He accepted, with earnest and devout gratitude, the honour; and his prayer to God was, that he might endeavour so to act as never to tarnish the trust committed to him;—that he might endeavour to preserve and improve that trust for the glory of God and the benefit of the Connexion. He would notice two circumstances which greatly heightened the value of the vote, by which he was then exalted: 1st, the fact of his being nominated by that venerable man, Dr. Bunting; he was thankful that, by the grace of God, he had been enabled so to deport himself as to be called his “friend;” 2ndly, because he had been elected at the present juncture. He had never been anywhere but at his post, when loyal and sound principles were periled; he was always willing to stand in the gap; but he had not been a man of war. He also rejoiced in the epithet which had been applied to him by Dr. Bunting—“one of the working clergy.” Their vote, on that occasion, gave the lie to the insinuation, which had been written and spoken, respecting the manner in which ministers, in that Connexion, obtained good circuits. He had not been an idler. He had devoted himself to the work of the ministry; and those brethren, who felt that they had not talents for championship, might after the example of his election, be encouraged. He would add, that he was not a party man; he had thought for himself, and acted for himself; and he was thankful that, by divine grace, he was there among his fathers and brethren, for which he gave glory to God.

The Rev. William Lord, who was nominated by the Rev. J. P. Haswell, obtained 264 votes.

The Rev. WILLIAM LORD observed, that time would not allow him to address the Conference at great length; but he was bound to say, that he felt greatly honoured by his election. The position to which they had called him he regarded as very important; and he would endeavour, by the grace of God, to fulfil its duties.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

The election of the “Hundred” being thus completed, the next proceeding was the election of a President and a Secretary. Much had been said on this subject, and extraordinary interest was felt, throughout the connexion, respecting the result. The votes were as follows:—

Rev. G. Osborn	1	Rev. Dr. Dixon	3
.. J. Cusworth	1	.. John Lomas	10
.. F. A. West.....	1	.. Joseph Fowler	29
.. R. Young	1	.. William Naylor	39
.. G. Cubitt	1	.. Thomas Jackson	265
.. Dr. Beecham	1		
.. W. Vevers	2	Total votes	356
.. Dr. Beaumont	2		

Immediately after the declaration of these numbers, by the retiring President, (who observed that he had counted every vote himself,) the election of Secretary was proceeded with, and the votes were—

Rev. W. Barton	1	Rev. S. Jackson	1
.. J. Lomas	1	.. J. P. Haswell	2

Rev. R. Young	2	Rev. John Farrar	51
.. W. Naylor	5	.. Dr. Hannah	206
.. Dr. Beaumont	6		
.. Dr. Dixon	8	Total votes	312
.. Joseph Fowler	29		

These elections were concluded about half past twelve o'clock; and, the doors being immediately thrown open, the chapel was filled by a large and respectable congregation, who were in waiting to join the assembled ministers in the Conference prayer meeting.

The Ex-PRESIDENT, (Dr. Newton,) addressed the newly-elected President nearly as follows:—Brother Thomas Jackson,—I have already announced from the chair, that you are duly elected as the President of this Conference. (Here Dr. Newton and Mr. Jackson very cordially, and with evident emotion, shook hands with each other, amidst the greeting of the assembled multitude.) In resigning the situation which, by the providence of God and the suffrages of my brethren, I was called to occupy, I now, with the most sincere and hearty good-will, congratulate you on the high honour and dignity to which you have attained. I have known you from your youth. When I was not out of my teens, you and your excellent brother formed a part of my congregation, in a village honoured by your residence, where, from time to time, I preached the gospel. I have known your manner of life from your youth up. In two Circuits, we have been colleagues; and never was there an unkind thought or feeling towards one another, during our travelling together in those circuits. I believe you are fully aware of the onerous and arduous duties which await you; but you will be encouraged, because you have the confidence and call of your brethren, which, if you rightly interpret it, is the voice of providence. Cheered by their prayers for the blessing of God, I earnestly hope that your official year may be a very happy and prosperous one. It is with feelings of no ordinary kind, that I present to you this volume,—(here the Ex-President handed to his successor Mr. Wesley's Bible,)—the identical volume which the venerable Wesley carried in his pocket, and from which, at many a street-door, under many a tree, and on many a hill-side, he read out his text. That volume is the standard of truth, the rule of faith, of privilege, and of practice. It is also with unfeigned pleasure—not indeed equal pleasure, for,—(pointing to the volume,)—that volume is above all,—(much emotion in the congregation,)—yet, with sincere pleasure, that I present you with the Conference Seal. May the Great Head of the Church pour upon you his blessing! (Loud responses of "Amen.") May that blessing attend all your official acts! And may this be a year, not only of great blessing to yourself, but of peace and prosperity to the Connexion.

The PRESIDENT,—(having taken the chair,)—rose and said—You will excuse me from any attempt to give expression to my feelings, at present: I must reserve this duty, till I have greater command over them.

The SECRETARY, (Dr. Hannah,) was requested to occupy his official seat, which he took accordingly.

The CONFERENCE PRAYER-MEETING was immediately commenced.

The Revds. JAMES METHLEY, ROBERT YOUNG, WILLIAM BARTON, and JOHN STEPHENSON, at the request of the President, engaged in prayer, —after which the PRESIDENT pronounced the benediction.

The Conference was then adjourned to half-past five o'clock in the evening.

In the evening, after the usual devotional exercises,—

The PRESIDENT addressed the Conference, on the subject of his election, from the chair. He began by observing, that he had considerable difficulty in expressing the feelings which he entertained. The place he occupied was the last that he should ever have sought. He had never uttered a word, or cherished a wish, to be placed there: but, called to occupy it by their suffrages, and by divine providence, he accepted it, with a deep sense of the honour conferred upon him. He felt it to be a duty, in the fear of God, to pledge himself, that, if it pleased God to spare his life, he would apply all the powers he possessed, during the ensuing twelve months, to fulfil the trust committed to him. (Loud cheers.) He hoped that he should have an interest in their prayers, that he might be enabled to fulfil his duty. He felt painful anxiety, on account of the great responsibilities of the office; but that was connected with a feeling of gratitude to God. He was thankful that, having been, for 45 years, a Minister in Connexion with the Conference, he was still an object of their kind feeling. To God be all the glory! At the same time, he was bound to offer his thanks to them: they would not have placed him in that position if he had not had their confidence. He thanked them for that confidence, and he also thanked God. Ever since he became a Minister of the Gospel, it had been the object of his desire that, next to enjoying the favour of God, he might enjoy the favour of his brethren. There was another subject on which he would say a few words. His sentiments, in reference to Methodism, were no secret. He had not, indeed, taken a prominent part in the debates of the Conference, chiefly from a constitutional timidity, which had deterred him: he had, therefore, been often silent when he might have spoken. He had, however, expressed his thoughts through the press; and, perhaps, few men in the Connexion had done more in that way than himself. He avowed himself, as he had often done, a Methodist of the John Wesley school. (Loud applause.) He had studied John Wesley's writings and character, day and night, during a long series of years; and his deep conviction was, that a faithful adherence to the principles of that venerable man was essential to their unity, and to the prosperity of the work of God in the Connexion. The more they did so, the more united would they be themselves, and the more useful to other bodies. Thus far, he believed, Mr. Wesley's principles had been acted upon. (Hear, hear.) There had, indeed, been modifications made, in working out his system; but none in his principles. He (the President) adhered to those principles, with all his heart. He intended to be a Wesleyan Methodist, and to adhere to Methodism, to the end of his days. (Loud applause.) He must advert to one painful particular. He had mourned over the attempts which had been made to innovate upon their system. A secret, irresponsible power had risen up, which interfered with the just rights of the Methodist Conference,—(great sensation);—which reflected on the acts and appointments of the Conference; and which endeavoured, in various instances, to render these acts and appointments void. Sreuous attempts had been made to render their services as Ministers of the Gospel null and void, and to bring their characters into disrespect and contempt. He mourned over this state of things, because it interfered with the blessed work of God, and particularly with the great and sacred Missionary cause. This evil

had been borne with, for some years. The Conference had had this subject before it two years ago, and recorded its solemn judgment by vote; nevertheless, the evil had rather increased since. The Conference, the highest authority in this community, was bearded, by a secret and irresponsible power. He had a full conviction, that the time was come, when this evil should be dealt with:—when this evil should be effectually corrected,—(great cheering;)—and by the grace of God, done away with,—he trusted for ever. (Cheers.) He believed they were all inclined to unite in the prayer suggested by a line in one of their hymns—

“ Jesus,—end this war within.”

This war amongst themselves must be brought to an end. It was a stumbling-block to their people; it was the occasion of scandal to other christian communities; it retarded them in their great work; and they must not tolerate this evil any longer,—“ neither be partakers of other men’s sins.” In making these observations, he was not prejudging the case. He knew not the offender; nor did he take upon himself to dictate what should be the manner of dealing with this evil. But they ought to put an end to it: not indeed in vindictiveness; not in the spirit of revenge, but of jealousy for the honour of God, and pity for the offender; to whom God would, he trusted, “ give repentance to the acknowledgement of the truth.” (Cheers.) He congratulated the Conference on the circumstances under which they met. The tide of emigration, in some past years, had been great, and had seriously affected some of their societies, and prevented that numerical increase to which they had previously been accustomed. There were parties, who wished not well to their Zion, and availed themselves of such circumstances to cover their work with discredit. But they had now had a year of glorious prosperity; and the words of their venerable Founder had been verified: “ The best of all is, God is with us.” He trusted their number would not only be increased, but multiplied, by the blessing of God on the ministrations of his servants. He hoped they would have a good Conference. “ Nay,” said he, “ not only shall we have, but we have a good Conference: it has already begun. (Cheers.) I never witnessed so kind a feeling in the committees. It must have been cheering to the heart of every loyal Methodist. The Lord is present with us. O, that this Conference may be marked by the blessing of God! It was agreed by our fathers to seek the blessing of God on their deliberations: I remind you and myself of this fact.” He hoped his brethren would be present at the commencement of the sittings, that all their proceedings might be “ sanctified by the word of God and prayer;” that they might return to their work “ baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” He had no sympathy with the views of those who asserted that Methodism was on the decline. It was but entering on its great evangelical commission. It was designed to bless this country and the world; and it was never more needed than at the present day. The population of the country was vastly greater than when Mr. Wesley commenced his career; and the evil agencies which were in operation were of fearful power. Infidelity, in the worst forms of atheism, was awfully prevalent; superstition had reared its head; and, as a son of John Wesley, he mourned over the revival of essential Popery in different quarters. He considered what was called the Puseyite system as no better than essential popery. It cherished a passion for ceremony; its theology was that of the Trentine council; and its operation was most *perilous*. These were evils which they had to resist, not so much by

controversy, or by controversial preaching, as by a plain and fearless enforcement of "the truth as it is in Jesus." The President concluded an able and impressive address, with the following emphatic petition—"May the Lord gird us afresh, each 'with his hands to war and his fingers to fight!'—and may the Lord make us a thousand times more zealous and useful than we are!"

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH expressed his sincere gratitude that, in the providence of God, and by the votes of his brethren, he had again been placed in so honourable a position; and prayed that it might please God to endue them all with the "spirit of love and of a sound mind;" that every thing might be done to his glory. He was not desiring, nor expecting, that office; but, as it had pleased his fathers and brethren to place him in it, he would endeavour, by the blessing of God, and the assistance of their prayers, to perform the duty assigned to him. He trusted that they were all of one mind,—that they would endeavour to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;" and he expected to have a good Conference.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

The Rev. RICHARD REECE adverted, in appropriate terms, to the services of the late President. There was no man amongst them whose character was so well known, and no man who had laboured more for the good of the connexion. He could not have done what he had done, if he had not kept open the intercourse between God and his soul. He did not obstruct the shadow of the cloud guiding his path. His course, during the past year, there could be no doubt, had been acceptable to his brethren at large: he might say, it had been universally satisfactory. He (Mr. Reece) was very much struck with one circumstance, in relation to the commencement of a development of that bad and evil spirit of which they had heard. When he first heard of it, he was very anxious to avoid all personal strife, all contention amongst brethren; but, in the progress of events, he had seen circumstances arising, which he thought would have a right issue. They must now do, what they ought to have done three or four years ago. (Applause.) He had no doubt, there were individuals, who could have stood forth, and said, "Thou art the man." Had this been done, many an honest man would have been preserved from falling into a snare. But he hoped that all would be disentangled by this Conference. He thanked the Ex-President, and hoped the Conference would thank him too, for the steps he had taken in this important office. His personal respect for him had always been great and undeviating; and he loved him as much as ever. As regarded himself, if there were anything in his heart, he felt it was nothing but love. That was the great principle which he endeavoured to cherish, and which they ought all to cherish. In conclusion, he proposed that the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the late President, for his eminently faithful services in that office.

The Rev. Dr. BUNTING wished to have the honour and pleasure of seconding the resolution. He would not attempt to describe the motives of personal regard and affection which prompted him to do so. It required no great profession, on the part of any man, to say, that he loved Robert Newton. (Cheers.) A man who did not love him, must be a very unlovely man himself. But the ground on which he chiefly supported the resolution, referred to public motives and principles. He need not advert to the long and valued services which their late Presi-

dent had rendered to the connexion. They were present to the minds of all the brethren, and, in their results, would bring glory to Christ, and benefits to the connexion which would long survive him. During the past year, he must have had great anxiety and trial. He congratulated him that he was relieved,—and, indeed, to some extent repaid,—by the proceedings of that day. He was sure that he retired for the fourth time—(cheers)—from that office, with even a higher degree of the affection and regard of his brethren, than on any former occasion. (Cheers.) He (Dr. B.) could not say more; and he cordially seconded the resolution. †

The PRESIDENT, addressing Dr. Newton, said—Mr. Ex-President, it is with ardent affection that I express to you the sense of this Conference, respecting the eminent services which you have rendered to the body. I have a distinct recollection of the commencement of your ministerial career, now fifty years ago,—a career which has been marked by signal tokens of the divine approbation. No man among us has rendered such pulpit services to the connexion, since the decease of our venerable Founder. I mourn to think that attempts have been made to cast discredit upon you. A more pure and blameless character I never knew. With respect to your public services, I need say nothing; but I will observe, that those reflections which have been cast upon you, were never *endorsed*—(loud cheers)—they were never *endorsed*—and, therefore, they will pass for nothing. (Cheers.) All attempts to injure the character and usefulness of public men are sins against Jesus Christ. You have the best thanks of this Conference for your faithful services. May it please God long to spare you to the connexion; and late in life may you be called to your eternal reward in heaven, where, I trust, we shall all meet.

Dr. NEWTON,—deeply affected,—said,—I feel all but overwhelmed by these expressions of your brotherly kindness and regard, which I have just received. I am not a person to be easily moved or unmanned; but your kindness has all but put silence on my tongue. I cannot do justice to the feelings of this heart. I value the approbation and affection of my brethren in the ministry, next to the favour and peace of God. I have always desired to live in the affections of my brethren, for half a century; and now I have received the hearty approbation, and kindest expressions of esteem, from this, the largest Conference I ever saw! This is what I value above everything in the world. (Cheers.) “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.” I am heartily and personally obliged to you. This heart can never forget,—for gratitude is the memory of the heart,—the kindness of my two friends, who moved and seconded this resolution, and that of the Conference. It is very true, that I have had many anxious hours, and many trials, and some of them very painful. I have received an abundance of letters,—some with, some without names;—I would willingly meet any man face to face;—but when such letters are coming,—one, for instance, with the York post-mark, signed “Impartial,” affirming that I received £500 per annum for my services as secretary of the Conference, besides all that I received in the best circuits in which I was stationed; I could not but feel deeply that there should be men who could thus abuse the confidence of others who knew not the case. Some have ingeniously attempted to draw me into controversy; I do not want to fight in that way; but I am grieved to observe that publications, containing the worst insinuations, have been circulated widely among our people. The poison has been widely diffused; *and, unless there be an antidote at hand, the effects will be still more*

mischievous, perhaps, in some cases, fatal. I have, however, never asked, like the servant of the prophet, "What shall we do?" I have always had a good hope, as to the issue of these things, if we are true to ourselves and to Methodism. I am a Methodist of the old school,—the John Wesley school: that is the Methodism to which I subscribed; and I am persuaded its principles will rise above all attempts to trample upon them. Wesleyan Methodism will triumph; it will live and flourish more than ever. Amidst all my anxieties, I have had great relief, when I have received letters from different places, telling me of the progress of the work of God, of numerous conversions to the truth, and of an increase to our societies: and, to think that the Lord has thus answered the men who affirmed we were pursuing a downward course, and should be laid aside, surely we have cause to "thank God," again and again, "and to take courage." Another circumstance which cheered me is, that this increase has been generally diffused: there have been few circuits where there has not been an increase. This cannot but be highly gratifying to us all, and an occasion of unspeakable gratitude to God. I expect great things from this Conference. The time has come when we must take a firm stand, for the honour of Christ, and the credit of Methodism—for its order, its harmony, its perpetuity, and its prosperity. We have, for a considerable time, exercised great forbearance; but, if we go on after the same manner, forbearance will seem to become connivance: I expect from this Conference some acts by which this spirit will be quashed, and be put down, I hope, for ever; and that we shall henceforth know one another as a band of brothers, and be, like the first disciples, "of one heart and one soul." I now retire with the greater satisfaction, because I have the fullest confidence in the ability and integrity of the two highest officers of this Conference, as well as of those who are associated with them; and I am sure, that, if we do our duty, we shall have a blessed Conference. The eyes of other denominations are fixed on this Conference; and I hope it will pursue a course, which will commend itself to the judgement and conscience of every Christian. (Loud cheers.)

THANKS TO THE SECRETARY.

The Rev. GEORGE MARSDEN said, that Conference had reminded him of fifty years ago, and he was thankful that the sentiments and views of the great men of that day were embodied now. He was thankful for the statements they had heard of sound Wesleyan Methodism. A little circumstance had occurred to him, which perhaps might be deemed trifling, but he would venture to mention it. In the gallery of that chapel, fifty years ago, he sat next to the late excellent Mr. Pawson, who said to him, "George, who is that pretty lad, who is so attentive to all the business?"—to which I replied, "It is Mr. Bunting." (Hear.) He (Mr. Marsden) stood firm to the principles of those days. It was with great pleasure he proposed the following vote of thanks:—

"That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. Joseph Fowler, for his faithful and able services as their late secretary; and that Mr. Fowler be affectionately assured of their fraternal sympathy with him, in the affliction which, at present, precludes his attendance at their sittings, and of their hopes and prayers for the speedy restoration of his health."

The Rev. ISAAC KEELING,—having regard to the weighty business before them, could only allow himself a brief expression of the satisfaction

which he felt at the events of that day. They all knew Mr. Fowler's characteristic vigour; and, when appointed to the office of their secretary, he (Mr. K.) expected that the vigour of his mind would be thrown into his official duties. They had seen that at the last Conference: and it was not an improbable supposition, that his attention to the business of the Committees before the present Conference might have had something to do with his present affliction. (Hear.)

The vote was passed unanimously.

THANKS TO THE OTHER OFFICERS.

Dr. HANNAH, the Secretary, proposed the thanks of the Conference to the Assistant Secretaries, the Rev. Messrs. I. Keeling, J. Farrar, and William Barton, and their re-appointment. He was not unacquainted with their arduous labours, and with the able manner in which they had performed their duty.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT, had the highest opinion of their ability and diligence in the discharge of their very important and onerous duties, and cordially seconded the resolution,—which was passed unanimously.

Mr. KEELING acknowledged the vote. He was thankful their services were so kindly accepted. He had been put into that office eleven years ago, and not for any ability he possessed in speaking,—his services lay in another way: but they all knew the ability of his colleagues.

Dr. HANNAH next proposed a vote of thanks to the Official Letter Writers of the past year—the Revds. R. Waddy, Jonathan Crowther, and John Bedford.

The Rev. S. JACKSON seconded the motion. Having filled the office, he knew its duties; and he had observed the fidelity and ability with which they had been discharged.

The motion having passed unanimously,

Dr. HANNAH next proposed, that the Revds. Jonathan Crowther, George Osborn, and John Bedford, should be appointed the Official Letter Writers for the present year; which being seconded by Dr. DIXON, was unanimously agreed to.

The Rev. JOHN BEDFORD regretted that his senior colleagues in that office were not present to acknowledge the honour conferred upon them. He begged for himself, and, if he might do so, for them, very gratefully and respectfully to thank the Conference for the kindness expressed by this vote.

IRISH REPRESENTATIVES.

The Revds. THOS. WAUGH, WM. REILLY, and JOHN WILLIAMS were officially introduced as the Representatives of the Irish Connexion to this Conference.

The PRESIDENT—We give you a hearty welcome;—we sympathize with you in your trials; we hope you will see better days; and we trust that you will feel at home among us.

The Rev. THOS. WAUGH acknowledged the kindness of their reception. He thanked God for the more happy circumstances of his country, when compared with the last year. He could not but bear his testimony to the character and usefulness of their late respected President. He had long known him; and the longer he knew, the more highly he esteemed him. Mr. Waugh then presented the Annual Address of the Irish Conference.

Dr. NEWTON said—It had been frequently his duty, as the representative of this Conference, to go to Ireland. He had never seen a finer temper in

any Irish Conference than in the last. Although the brethren had come together in circumstances of great discouragement,—for they had “a great fight of afflictions;”—the cholera had removed some of their members; emigration to a great extent had deprived them of others, and, in instances not a few, because a man had gone who received the preacher, the cause at the place where he resided had been crippled, and in some cases given up; the opposition, too, from Puseyism, had been great, and he verily believed that some of the Puseyite clergy had more hope of the salvation of Roman Catholics than of Methodists;—yet, notwithstanding all these discouragements, the brethren had shown a noble spirit. He was particularly struck with their devotional spirit; they were men of prayer; and it did him good to hear their prayers. He had seen the men go forth in the name of their Master, to the work assigned them, to fulfil the ministry they had received of the Lord Jesus, and to testify to their countrymen, east and west, north and south, the gospel of the grace of God. He trusted that God would more abundantly bless them.

The address was then read by the Secretary, and stated, among other things, that the number of emigrants alone, during the year, had amounted to 1165.

The Rev. Messrs. S. JACKSON, GEORGE CUBITT, and WILLIAM ARTHUR were appointed to draw up a reply to the address.

PASTORAL ADDRESS.

The Rev. W. L. THORNTON was appointed to revise and complete the Pastoral Address, and Dr. BEECHAM, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. LOMAS, were requested to give him their counsel and advice.

STATEMENTS IN THE LOCAL PAPERS.

The Rev. WM. NAYLOR requested the indulgence of the Conference for a few minutes. Since he took his seat, it had been intimated to him by a brother, that he was suspected of that, to which every feeling of his heart was opposed. He had thought that his character, for the forty-seven years during which he had been a Minister, would have been sufficient to protect him from evil surmisings. In every time of danger he had been among the foremost to assert his love of Methodism, and he had ever wished to stand fair with his brethren. He was almost overwhelmed at the thought that he was in any way an object of suspicion. Certain articles had appeared in the local newspapers relating to him, and it had been intimated that he was a party to their publication. He knew nothing of them. He had heard also of the circulation of a separate sheet in the chapel yard; but, so far from sanctioning that proceeding, he had ordered the individual engaged in it to be removed from the premises. About five hundred letters had come, addressed to his brethren, on the same subject: but he had refused to allow them to be circulated. He had done nothing dishonourable to himself or to Methodism. (Hear.) So much did he feel on this subject, that, were it not that he had duties to perform with respect to the representation of the Manchester District, he was so mortified at being suspected, that he should have withdrawn from the present Conference. (Cries of “No, no” “Nobody suspects you.”)

The PRESIDENT said—Brother Naylor is above suspicion. I have known him for more than forty years; and a sounder Methodist does not exist. I hope the idea will be dismissed from Brother Naylor's mind, that any one in this Conference suspects him. (Hear.)

The Conference being now fully constituted by the appointment of all

its officers, proceeded, according to the usual order, to inquire—"WHO ARE NOW TO BE ADMITTED AS MINISTERS INTO FULL CONNEXION?" The several districts were then gone through, and it was found that THIRTY-SEVEN Young Ministers had honourably passed the period of their probation. This business occupied the remainder of the sitting, and a portion of the following morning.

THURSDAY, JULY 26TH.

The session commenced, as usual, with singing, reading the scriptures, and prayer, which was offered to Almighty God by the Rev. W^m Bird.

The EX-PRESIDENT, amid solemn silence, announced that the Rev. Edward Batty, who the day before had been in the Conference, had died at midnight. He had come to Conference to give his vote to the Rev. T. Jackson; sat with his brethren while the election was proceeding; was obliged to leave before the votes were counted; went to his lodgings; soon became very ill; and, though all possible medical aid was afforded, and every attention shown by the kind family into whose house he had been received, he expired about half-past twelve o'clock the same night. He was desirous to know who were elected President and Secretary; when informed, he thanked God for the elections, and expressed himself persuaded that his work was done. Upon his medical attendant expressing a hope that he would not be alarmed, he observed, that he had forty years ago begun his preparation for that hour, and now had no fear. Dr. Newton, who was lodging in the same house, was coming up to pray with him; but Mr. Batty, having an idea that the disorder was infectious, would on no account allow him to come into his room, after it became evident that it was a most unequivocal case of Asiatic cholera, but sent a message to him to the effect that, if the friends would engage in prayer below for him, he should esteem it as effectual as if offered in his own room.

He was interred at the Wesleyan burying ground attached to the chapel at Cheetham-hill, at two o'clock on Thursday, the medical gentlemen being of opinion that the sooner he was interred the better. The Secretary of the Conference officiated on the occasion. Thus, in little more than twenty-four hours a member of Conference was recording his vote for the president, and his mortal remains were committed to the tomb to await the resurrection of the just!

The PRESIDENT remarked that this event should give a solemnity to the proceedings of Conference. "Who," enquired he, "may next be called away?" There should be earnest prayer to God to preserve our health and lives. Distressing fear should not exist, as the Conference was in the hands of God:

It was also announced that Mr. Fowler was no better.

The PRESIDENT took occasion to say, that in order to go on well with the business of the Conference, it would be necessary to suppress private conversation. The previous evening's proceedings had been carried on amid so much conversation that the official members of the Conference were obliged to exert themselves too much in order to be heard. This diminished the moral effect of the proceedings. Besides, all present should take part in the business of Conference.

The Conference then resumed the enquiry, what probationers, having travelled at least four years, are to be received into full connexion with the Conference? It was occasionally very difficult to hear the representatives, but there appeared to be 37 in Great Britain, 25 in the foreign missions, and 8 in Ireland.

The PRESIDENT read a letter he had just received from the Mission house, stating that Dr. Alder was considered out of danger if there was no relapse, and that the clerks who had had the cholera were recovering.

The next question that occupied the attention of Conference was, who remain on trial? There were about 66 who have travelled three years; 64, two years; and 15, one year.

The next question coming under the consideration of Conference was, who are on the president's list of reserve? The names were read, and accounts given of them by the superintendents of the circuits where they reside.

Mr. FARRAR reported that the number on the list of reserve was no less than 25.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

The next subject of inquiry was, who are received upon trial? There were in the London district, 3, one of whom offered himself for Sierra Leone. In the Bedford and Northampton district, 1. Kent district, 2. Norwich and Lynn district, 2. Oxford district, 2. Guernsey district, 1. Cornwall district, 3; the friends of one of whom, from his anxiety to get into the institution, will pay part of his expenses of training in that establishment. Exeter district, 1; who took honours at the University of London at the time of his examination before the Conference Committee in London, and who, the day after his preaching his trial sermon, was seized with the cholera, as well as the minister who was appointed to hear him. Both recovered: the young man attributing his recovery, under God, to the kind and unremitting attention of some of his fellow-students in the University. In the Bath district, 2; one of them the grandson of the well-known Carvosso. In the second South Wales district, 2. Another was proposed, but his case was not decided on until the Welsh preachers who are at Conference had met and reported their deliberations on it.

[Subsequently, on the unanimous recommendation of the Welsh preachers, he was received.]

Mr. CUSWORTH stated it as the opinion of the best friends of Methodism; that no candidate should be received from the Welsh districts unless he could speak English as well as Welsh.

Dr. BEAUMONT would protect the Welsh in their aboriginal rights.

Dr. BUNTING said that, at present, there would be no possibility of uniting into one society the Welsh and English members in the Principality.

In the North Wales district, 3. In the Birmingham and Shrewsbury district, 3. Liverpool district, 3. Manchester district, 7: one of whom was described in the written account of his character—forwarded, as is always done, by the superintendent—as “free from debt, snuff, tobacco, and matrimonial engagement.” Halifax and Bradford, 4. Leeds district, 2; another was proposed, but was not received on account of his advanced age.

This was the case with several in other districts. In this instance, however, it was necessary to take the vote of the Conference, when a large majority decided that, though he came most satisfactorily recommended, he was too old to be received upon trial.

Dr. BEAUMONT observed that persons of his age should not be brought forward “in such a reptation of the ecclesiastical market.”

Sheffield district, 4. Nottingham and Derby district, 1.

During the previous inquiries, various incidental remarks were made that throw light upon the economy of Methodism, and will be of interest to

Methodists. Several on trial had married during their probation, and had therefore either resigned or lost one year or more of their itinerancy; or having, contrary to rule, formed matrimonial engagements while students in the institution, had been obliged to leave it. One of these, in his letter of resignation, said, that he had lost all sympathy with the body.

Mr. NAYLOR wished that all who had lost their attachment to the body would do the same thing—resign.

Dr. BUNTING thought that if the young man had no sympathy, he should have much gratitude.

The Missionary Secretaries requested leave to sell a portion of the mission property in Van Dieman's Land. Permission granted, and the President authorized to affix the Conference seal to the deed of sale.

In the case of one young man, on the President's list of reserve, a small committee was appointed to inquire into the circumstances owing to which he left the institution at Didsbury, at the close of his second year of residence. The committee are Messrs. Naylor, Young, Geden, and W. W. Stamp.

It was stated by the ex-President, and others, that the plan of employing hired local preachers was becoming general, and was producing serious difficulties and inconveniences. Even circuits on the Contingent Fund were adopting this plan. Mr. Young suggested that the recent regulations on granting additional preachers to circuits led to this. A committee was appointed to consider the subject and report upon it.

Dr. DIXON observed that a practice was growing up in the body which he thought was not proper, and which led to great inconvenience. The President for some years had sent from the list of reserve, young men into circuits, while the chairman of the district in which that circuit was, knew nothing of the arrangement.

It was the opinion of the Conference that correspondence should take place between the chairman of the district and the authorities of the circuit before application was made to the President for a supply.

Dr. BEAUMONT expressed his surprise that so many young men on trial had resigned, from physical inability, after they had been appointed to a circuit and had been labouring in it no more than six or eight weeks.

A young man who had at first offered to go abroad, but, in his second year at the institution, had expressed his altered views on this point, lost a year. Twelve students who had been their full time in the institution, were, according to rule, considered as having travelled one year.

LETTER TO THE LATE SECRETARY.

The SECRETARY read the letter, enclosing the vote of thanks to Mr. Fowler for his services during the past year, and the condolence of the conference with him in his affliction.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING said that he was glad to notice that the letter expressed so strongly the affection of the Conference towards its late secretary, and was understood to say that he thought the resolution had, through some inadvertence, doubtless, been rather deficient in this respect. He pronounced a high eulogium on Mr. Fowler, as one who deserved well of the Connexion. In these sentiments the Conference cordially concurred.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

At a quarter before eight o'clock, as the chapel was becoming very close, the President expressed a doubt whether it was proper to protract the session in the present state of the country. It would be better to prolong the Conference a few days than to sit too late in the evening. In this

opinion the Conference acquiesced, and the session immediately closed with fervent prayer.

FRIDAY, JULY 27TH.

After the usual devotional services, Mr. KEBLING read the minutes of Thursday's proceedings.

TEMPERANCE MEMORIALS.

The PRESIDENT reported that he had received several memorials on the temperance question, most of them respectfully worded, and with the names of the parties attached who had sent them. The Conference ordered that they should be respectfully acknowledged.

The inquiry was then continued as to

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

There were accepted from the Lincoln district, 2; Hull district, 4; Whitby and Darlington district, 4; and 1 proposed; but his case was postponed until it should have been ascertained whether he had read the whole of our standard works, he, at the District Meeting, having only read a part.

Dr. BEAUMONT and Mr. W. M. BUNTING strongly insisted on the necessity of every candidate reading these carefully and comparing them with the sacred Scriptures. They denounced the practice of a cursory reading of them, and then affirming a cordial belief in the doctrinal views of Mr. Wesley. The latter said, "Mr. Wesley's works were our creed, though not our Bible."

Mr. W. BUNTING made some lengthy observations which appeared to produce much attention on those who could hear him.

The PRESIDENT expressed his sense of the impropriety of a young man giving Mr. Wesley's works a cursory reading, and then affirming that he had adopted Wesleyan views.

Newcastle district, 1. Edinburgh and Aberdeen, 2; one of whom offered himself for the home work in "the absence of all impression" that he was called to labour abroad,

Dr. BUNTING expressed himself strongly on the erroneous doctrine of having no particular impression to labour in the missionary field.

The other offered himself for home or foreign work, but especially desired to labour in his native Scotia.

The Ex-PRESIDENT said he liked him all the better for this preference.

A young man who resigned last Conference made an application to be placed again among those upon trial. His request was not granted.

There are sixty received upon trial in Great Britain; and of these twelve are preachers' sons. In the mission-field ten are taken upon trial. Among these is one in the Bechuana district, a native of Germany. His knowledge of some African dialects is equal to that of any man in Africa; he is acquainted with various modern languages, and has some little acquaintance with the learned languages. In Ireland the number received upon trial is three. The total number, seventy-three.

DECEASE OF MINISTERS.

The next question in order on the minutes, is one which always excites deep interest, and is considered with much solemnity.

The PRESIDENT said—The next subject which comes before the Conference is one of deep and solemn interest. It relates to the character

of those of our brethren who have finished their work, and entered on their reward. I trust that all secular business will be suspended during its consideration. We ourselves shall soon be numbered with the dead. We will introduce this solemn subject by singing some verses of one of our hymns. The Conference then sang, with much solemnity and feeling, several verses of the hymn, commencing—

“Come let us join our friends above.”

The following thirty cases of death were reported :—

IN ENGLAND.

Name.	Circuit.	Age.	Year when Ministry commenced.
Abraham E. Farrar	Sixth London	60	1807
Richard Cooper	Windsor	66	1814
James Mole	Faversham	66	1806
Thomas Baker	Reading	47	1830
Henry Groves	Salisbury	44	1831
Edward Batty	Guernsey	66	1806
Joseph Armstrong	Ashburton	72	1808
John Rogers	Barnstaple	69	1807
Richard Greenwood	Oakhampton	—	1814
John Radford	Weymouth	68	1794
David Morgan	Cowbridge	—	1822
Thomas Jones, 3rd	Aberystwith	—	1811
Robert Jones, 1st.	Carnarvon	—	1830
Moses Dunn	Coventry	—	1807
George Marsland	Bolton	51	1818
John Ash	Keighley	—	1804
James Blackett	Leeds	70	1808
Charles Taylor	Woodhouse Grove	39	1834
Benjamin Gregory, sen.	Belper	77	1800
Thomas Simmonite	Horncastle	62	1780

IN IRELAND.

James Rutledge	New Ross	62	1802
Archibald Murdock	Ballina	82	1803

IN THE FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Phillip Le Bas	France	—	1834
Joseph Roberts, 2nd	Madras	54	1818
Thomas Purslow	Sierra Leone	30	1847
Jeremiah Hartley	South Africa	—	1843
Francis Whitehead	West Indies	—	1836
James McBryon	St. Vincent's	29	1846
Stephen Bamford	Nova Scotia	48	1806
John Hunt	Feejee	—	1837

A brief character of each of the Ministers above named was read to the Conference, and many statements respecting their ministerial labours and success were given by ministers who had been acquainted, or stationed with them. Especial feeling was manifested in the Conference during the consideration of the character and labours of the first and last named ministers on the above list;—Abraham E. Farrar and John Hunt:—the first, for many years a well-known and highly esteemed minister in England; the last, an eminently honoured and useful missionary in Feejee.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

This important business was commenced by the SECRETARY reading the question, “Are there any objections against any of the Preachers?”

The PRESIDENT desired to make one or two observations at that stage of the business of the Conference. He considered that the Annual

Examination of the Character of their Ministers was an essential part of their ecclesiastical economy. The constitution of Methodism was, in some respects, peculiar;—it had been so from the beginning. Their Societies were designated, by their venerable Founder, *United Societies*;—not distinct congregations, but one body; the same in discipline and order. In consequence of their itinerancy and their united character from the beginning, their Ministers stood in a peculiar relation to each other; it was, consequently, necessary that unanimity should be maintained amongst them. They stood in the same relation, one to another, through the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Wesley said, at an early period, that unless the Preachers were united, and had a tender affection for, and confidence in, one another, they could not labour together in harmony. He, therefore, wisely required, that, once a year, there should be an Examination into the moral and ministerial character of every Preacher. Fidelity in the examination of character was an inestimable benefit, with reference to their purity as Preachers, and to the welfare of the Societies committed to their care. They must have confidence in one another, or they could not carry out their system. In so large a community faults would arise; these must be met and corrected, in the spirit of Christian kindness,—but at the same time, of fidelity. If anything wrong arose, they must repress it, or they could not be faithful. He found a direction, in early Minutes, the Minutes of 1775, that the Preachers should be examined one by one, and that, whoever had any doubt respecting any one should speak without reserve, or for ever hold his peace. (Cheers.) It was sinful, if any person knew anything wrong against another, to maintain an absolute silence in the Conference, and then go out and speak of it. There was a peculiarity in Mr. Wesley's phraseology,—“*they were examined*,”—not “*enquiries were made respecting them*,” but “*they were examined*,”—this was regularly done, and especially in all doubtful cases. He trusted it would be done faithfully by the Conference. If they were not to exercise a supervision over one another the sooner their union was dissolved and the better: if they were not to do so, there would be nothing but heartburnings and uneasiness among them; and, if they could not have confidence in one another, the sooner their Societies became Independent Churches, the better. If any brother in that Connexion of Ministers had just ground of complaint, let him then state it;—if there were any real grievance, in the name of the Lord Jesus, let that grievance be redressed;—but let them say what was in their hearts to one another, in the name and in the presence of God. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. NAYLOR observed there never was a time when it was more necessary to make a searching inquiry than the present. He held in his hands the declaratory resolutions of 1835. In his belief there is nothing in them contrary to the law and practice of Christ. The maintenance of them is necessary to the prosperity of Methodism, and the union of the Ministers of the body. He requested leave for the Secretary to read these celebrated and notorious resolutions. Misrepresentation existed as to the proceedings of the Manchester minor district meeting. This had been done by some one who represented himself as an aged supernumerary Methodist preacher. It was necessary to know whether the writer was a preacher or not. It had been insinuated that if the rules of 1835 were acted upon, some inconvenient questions might be asked of him. He was ready to answer any question the President thought it fit for him to answer (cheers,) and so were others who had been thus

attacked. He intimated that he should not at present say more, as he knew what was about to be proposed.

The PRESIDENT said that it was competent for any member of the Conference to require any rule to be read if he deemed it necessary.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING said that every person suspected to have a hand in publications which he would not trust himself to characterize, should be sent for. His brother Everett, of York, should be sent for, as he was suspected to have a principal hand in them. Disloyalty to Methodism is disloyalty to Christ.

Mr. DUNN rose in order. It was disorderly to enter into the case of a brother in his absence. Mr. Bunting was prejudging the case.

The PRESIDENT ruled that Mr. Bunting was in order, as he was not prejudging the case, but assigning reasons why Mr. Everett should be summoned to Conference. The Conference would not make up its mind before hearing the case. There is righteousness in the Conference.

Mr. BUNTING then proceeded to state, that in his opinion Mr. Bromley and Mr. Burdsall should also be summoned. He did not do this in the spirit of vindictiveness, nor would the Conference. The Conference knew how to show lenity; and he hoped that the brethren, if in fault, would, by a spontaneous confession, enable the Conference to show the forgiving spirit of Christ Jesus.

Mr. OSBORN hoped that the proceedings of this enquiry would be carried on without those indications of approbation or disapprobation that scarcely befitted the assembly on so grave a subject.

Another Minister expressed his hope that each person addressing the Conference would be heard without the unseemly and ungentlemanly interruptions that so often took place in the Conference.

The PRESIDENT ruled, that when an important principle was laid down, it was very proper for the Conference to express its approbation of the sentiment; but when an inquiry was taking place respecting the character of a preacher, such indication of feeling would be as improper as if a jury, during the progress of a trial, should give, from time to time, expression to its feelings.

Mr. DUNN never knew any one sent for to Conference on mere suspicion. It would be time enough, if, on coming to any man's name in regular order, there were found anything in the district minutes against him. It was a novel mode.

The PRESIDENT, in reply, said that the circumstances, too, were novel. There never was such an attempt to subvert the constitution of Methodism. (Cheers.) The Conference must not be prevented from doing its duty by mere technicalities (cheers). The sooner these brethren were sent for the better (loud cheering).

Dr. BEAUMONT thought that, extraordinary as the case was, the Conference was overstepping the mark in the course they were urged to take.

Mr. DUNN again attempted to speak, but was unable to gain a hearing.

Dr. BEAUMONT observed that every man should be allowed to speak; and, however disagreeable to some his sentiments might be, he should be heard out and out.

Mr. DUNN protested against the proposed mode. When the Secretary came to their names would be the time to propose this resolution.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING would rather the whole matter was postponed till after Sunday.

Dr. BUNTING knew of many cases in which preachers had been sent for to Conference, when there was no direct evidence against them.

Dr. BEAUMONT denied the propriety of the course.

The motion, seconded by Mr. Naylor, was then put from the chair, and carried almost unanimously.

The SECRETARY then read the Declaratory Rules of 1835. After this, the inquiry commenced as to there being any objection against any of the ministers. At the name of Joshua Fielden,

Mr. G. OSBORN rose and said, that, after the names were all gone through, he should then make a friendly complaint against Mr. Fielden, and several other brethren who were in the same case as he.

Dr. BEAUMONT opposed this procedure as a dangerous innovation.

Mr. OSBORN stated that Mr. Fielden had not signed the declaration.

Messrs. DUNN and GEORGE protested against the injustice of the course taken by Mr. Osborn.

The PRESIDENT ruled that Mr. Osborn was right, as he had been asked what was the ground of complaint against Mr. Fielden.

Dr. BEAUMONT said it was unworthy of Mr. Osborn to begin with an aged man pressed down by infirmities. Why did he not take his first exception against a man in sufficient vigour of body and mind to defend himself? Why did he not wait until the next name of the non-signers came, which was his own (Dr. B.'s)? It was not righteous for Mr. Osborn to stand up as "the accuser of the brethren," without any intimation having been given to them of his intention. Such a proceeding strikes at the foundation of all equity. The course of "the accuser of the brethren"—(loud cries of "Order," among which Dr. Bunting was heard to say, "An accuser of the brethren," and which led Dr. Beaumont to repeat the designation)—the course of "the accuser of the brethren" met his most entire disapprobation. How came Mr. Osborn to pass by Joseph Fowler and fall upon Joshua Fielden? Mr. Fowler had not signed the declaration, and Mr. Fielden was an infirm old man. Was this fairness?

Mr. OSBORN disclaimed the title of "accuser of the brethren." It was improper thus to apply scripture expressions. He would not shrink, at this crisis, from the calm but faithful discharge of his Methodist duties, and the maintenance of his Methodist rights. Mr. Fielden came first on the list. He considered Mr. Fowler, by his letter in the *Watchman*, to have given him brotherly satisfaction.

Several here spoke, but briefly and interruptedly, and amidst much excitement. At length,

Mr. W. M. BUNTING said, he feared that Mr. Osborn had overstepped the mark; and that the Conference ought seriously to deliberate whether it would allow Mr. Osborn to put the questions he proposed.

Dr. BUNTING and Mr. W. SMITH were understood to say that they feared the course proposed would be prejudicial.

Dr. BEAUMONT would give the Conference credit for not designing to do anything prejudicial to the brethren who had not signed the declaration. But it was impossible to prevent it. The laws of the human mind were fixed, and were too profound for them to say they would not pre-judge a man when something was said against him, and not enquired into, perhaps, for several days. Indeed, many minds were so constituted that they could not get over the impressions which such imputations produced. The plan proposed by Mr. Osborn was a deviation from all order.

In the midst of much confusion and excitement, Mr. FIELDEN lifted up his right hand, which was trembling from weakness, as an aspen-leaf, and said, "This hand for years has not been able to write a line."

Mr. OSBORN observed that Mr. Fielden had given him perfect satisfaction.

It now wanted but a quarter to eight o'clock, and the President, calling on one of the brethren to pray, closed the sitting.

SATURDAY, JULY 28.

DONATION TO THE MISSION FUND.

After the Minutes of the previous day's proceedings had been read, the Rev. JOHN BEDFORD informed the Conference, that the statements which had appeared respecting the debt now resting on the Missionary Society had called forth a response from Thomas Bagnall, Esq., of West Bromwich, from whom he had that morning received a letter, enclosing £50 towards its reduction.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE.

During this Sitting, the Rev. Dr. BUNTING announced that the Rev. JOHN RYERSON, a Representative from the Canadian Conference, had arrived,—when it was resolved to send the Rev. Messrs. NAYLOR and VEVEBS as a Deputation to receive him, and bring him into the Conference. Shortly afterwards those Ministers introduced Mr. Ryerson; to whom the PRESIDENT said, (at the same time extending to him his hand,) “Mr. Ryerson, I give you the right hand of fellowship, as the representative of this venerable body of Ministers in England, and receive you as the Representative of the sister body in Canada. Be kind enough to take your place on the platform. The Brethren rejoice to see you.”

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

Mr. NAYLOR brought in the Report of the Committee on the case of a candidate for the Ministry who had not continued the term of three years in the institution. The Report recommended he should be sent for, and conversed with on certain points affecting his attachment to Methodism, as the Committee, though anxious to keep him in the Ministry, were not satisfied of his Methodistic loyalty.

Dr. BUNTING considered it beneath the dignity of the Conference to send for him.

After a long conversation, from which it appeared, amid testimonies to his zeal and success, that he was said to be no Conference man, had corresponded with the *Wesleyan*, and was likely to injure his fellow-students by his Radical notions, it was understood that he was at liberty to come and make such explanations of his conduct on these points as he might see fit.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

The Conference resumed the inquiry, “Are there any objections against any of the preachers?”

The PRESIDENT prefaced the proceedings, by observing that the proceedings of the previous evening had made him very anxious as to the best course to be pursued. Two years ago it was stated that considerable alienation had taken place among the preachers. Conference gave permission to circulate a certain “Declaration,” expressive of unabated confidence in each other. The great body of the preachers had signed it. A few had not. The non-signers were not in the first instance to be thought disloyal, as they might have sufficient reasons for not sign-

ing. He knew in one instance that a senior minister had not signed because he did not consider that the "Declaration" was sufficiently strong. The whole subject of the "Fly-Sheets" and of the "Declaration" must come before the Conference. It would be better to waive the cases of the non-signers till the whole case came up. Forbearance was due to the non-signers. He could conceive that some who objected to sign the "Declaration" might set themselves right with their brethren verbally. God had already blessed the Conference in its sitting; he would continue to do so. He would be sorry to say or to do anything needlessly painful. Mr. Osborn had a right, certainly, to challenge each non-signer as his name came before the Conference in the regular order of inquiry; but it would be better to waive that right, and to consider all the cases at a future period. The Sabbath was at hand, and also the solemn services connected with the ordination of the young men received into full connexion. This made it very advisable to avoid all irritating topics. He had spent an anxious night. The care, if not of all the churches, of the Conference was upon him. He affectionately entreated the prayers and support of the Conference.

Dr. BUNTING entirely concurred in the remark of the President. They had, on the previous evening, from good motives he admitted, been betrayed into an inadvertence. Members of Conference should not be in haste to make motions. In difficult cases, before making a motion, it would be proper to consult the President upon the proposed motion. It was not pleasant to grieve a man who was endeavouring to do good to the body, by resisting any motion he brought forward. By consulting the President the member of the Conference did not give up his right of presenting his motion, if he thought fit, but he had the advantage of the counsel of a man of experience.

Mr. OSBORN stated that the course proposed by the President was the one on which he had intended to act.

The first instance of objection to character was made when the name of J. S. Stamp was called. The minutes of the minor district meeting, and of the annual district meeting, on this case, were read: and, on the motion of the Secretary of the Conference, seconded by the ex-President, these minutes were confirmed, and Mr. Stamp was solemnly and unanimously expelled from the body.

The PRESIDENT observed, amidst profound silence, that this was a very solemn case. The expelled person was the son of a highly esteemed minister, and possessed more than ordinary gifts. There was reason to conclude that he had fallen by little and little. One cause has been a want of deep and habitual seriousness. He had been too much given to jocularity, especially in the use he made of scripture language. There was a great difference between Christian cheerfulness and sinful levity. The habit of quoting scripture in a humorous style is very dangerous. Another cause was, that he made too free with ardent spirits. An appetite for these may be easily formed, but cannot be easily broken. The habit of taking spirits is very dangerous, especially to a Christian minister. Another cause was his affectation of gentility and of hospitality beyond his means. Honest poverty, said the President, with an emphasis that drew forth loud acclamations, is no reproach. I am a poor man, and am likely to be a poor man all my life. I am the son of a poor but an honest man, and I hope to live and to die an honest man. (Loud cheers.) Adverting, again, to the case in hand, the President expressed an earnest desire that God might give the expelled "repentance unto life."

The minor district meeting recommended the Conference to revise the modes hitherto adopted for borrowing money for the funds of the connexion, and to provide such checks, and pass such laws, as should be a guard in future against any mal-appropriation of the public funds. These recommendations were, of course, adopted by the Conference.

Dr. BUNTING adverted to the malicious and false statements made respecting him, and which, he said, were circulated in the *Wesleyan*, the *Wesleyan Times*, the *British Banner*, and the *Patriot*. It was said that he was "idle." What did it mean? That he was infirm? that he neglected any part of the work which Conference in its kind consideration had appointed him? He was said to be "selfish." He affirmed that he had never sought his own interest to the disparagement of the interest of the connexion. He denied the charge, and would have them who made it prove it. He was charged with "swindling." He was perfectly at a loss to understand what this could mean. He never had an opportunity to put his hand into the treasury purse. He indignantly denied it. It was cruel to affirm it. No thoroughly good man would believe the calumny. They who charge him thus should put him on his trial. It might be a painful thing at his time of life to be put upon his trial, but he would submit to the humiliation if his accusers would shew themselves. "Are there any WESLEYAN TIMES men in the house? Let them come forth. Here I am to meet them, and God defend the right!" The Doctor, who was repeatedly and vociferously cheered, sat down amidst applause, much prolonged, and more than once renewed.

The PRESIDENT—In the name of the Conference, if there be any in the house, I command them to stand forth. (Applause and loud cheers.) The President, in a very elevated tone, then cried, "stand forth!" (Renewed cheering.) He then proposed a few minutes silence, to afford any man an opportunity to reply. A death-like silence prevailed. He again arose, and exclaimed, in an energetic tone and attitude, "As you do not come forth, then, in the words of John Wesley, for ever hold your peace." The cheering was now most enthusiastically renewed.

Mr. SCOTT rose to say that, to his knowledge, Dr. Bunting never misappropriated a penny.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING objected to this course of remark. His father was not accused, and therefore needed not to be defended.

Dr. BUNTING replied, that those without ought to know what had taken place as well as those within. The charges were now in the hands of the people. They were not now "Fly Sheets" circulated privately; they were published in a "Vindication." It was too late to stand upon personal honour.

Mr. SCOTT renewed his statement, declaring that he never knew a man so superior to considerations of a pecuniary kind as Dr. Bunting. He did not make the claims which he justly might make upon the Missionary funds; for, instance, in medicine. There never was a fouler and falser charge brought against a man. The Missionary Society might well congratulate itself that it could command the services of such a man at the cost of so little as £300 a year. He had, since the statements made in the Missionary Committee of Review, received several communications expressing the shame felt by the parties addressing him, that such a man as Dr. Bunting should receive so little (vociferous cheering).

On the name of the Secretary of the Conference being called,

Dr. BEAUMONT said that he had been slandered in the *Watchman* and in an anonymous pamphlet written under the fictitious signature of

"Vates." He had not considered it consistent with self-respect to take any notice of the slander. Dr. Hannah, by giving a recommendation to the pamphlet, made it no longer anonymous. But for Dr. Hannah's name thus attached, it would have received no notice from him. He was indifferent about the pamphlet and the pamphleteer. It was, with Dr. Hannah's name attached, advertised on the wrapper of the "Wesleyan Magazine." He had always respected Dr. Hannah's high intellect, and his higher moral purity and official rectitude; but when he found himself damaged in his sphere of usefulness by the authority of Dr. Hannah's name, the Secretary must forgive him for saying that he (Dr. H.) had done him (Dr. B.) wrong, especially as Dr. Hannah had entered no caveat whatever in his recommendation, but wrote as though he approved of the whole pamphlet. He had endorsed the publication of "Vates."

The SECRETARY of the CONFERENCE explained that he did not give his recommendation to the whole. He only intended to express his commendation of the argument of the pamphlet, which was, that if the "Fly Sheet" writers had designedly or ignorantly given an erroneous statement of facts known to many, no confidence could be placed on their statement respecting facts which only a few, perhaps only themselves, could know. He never wrote anonymous articles except in periodicals, and then, as was the usual way, the name of the writer was known to the editor. He would not wear a mask. To harm Dr. Beaumont was as far from his intention as from the centre to the farthest pole. He had a grave sense of the evil of slanders and libels. He had not been used to take a prominent part in the debates of Conference, but even the silent must speak out in this exigency. He was willing to cast himself on the judgement of the Conference.

Dr. BEAUMONT gave Dr. Hannah full credit for not intending to injure him, but in his attempt to serve some he had injured others, by giving his name to a slanderous publication. It was murderous. He, however, accepted the explanation, so far as to be persuaded that the Secretary of the Conference had no intention to injure him.

Mr. OSBORN said there was this difference, that "Vates" gave the name of his printer and publisher, which was not the case with Dr. Beaumont's party and friends.

Here a scene of great confusion ensued.

Dr. Beaumont and Messrs. George and Scott appealed to the Chair, whether this was in order.

The PRESIDENT ruled that Mr. Osborn should be heard, who inquired whether it was disorderly to speak of Dr. Beaumont's party? Did not the writers of the "Fly Sheets" and in *The Wesleyan Times* constantly put him forward as the leader of the opposition in the Conference? (Cries of "No, no," "Yes, yes," "Order, order," "Question," "Chair," and great confusion.)

The PRESIDENT at length obtained silence, and ruled that Mr. OSBORN's words were capable of a sense not injurious to Dr. Beaumont, and that he (Mr. O.) must be allowed to proceed.

Mr. OSBORN then said he had no intention to use the words offensively. He must say that there were some whose intention it was to subvert Methodism.

Mr. DUNN here rose to order, stating that Mr. Osborn had no right to give his version of the intentions of non-declarationists.

The confusion increasing, the PRESIDENT observed that, hitherto, amidst much that was exciting, the Conference had shown its good sense by the

order maintained—that the moral effect upon their own minds of this loud clamour was not good.

Dr. BUNTING supported the chair by observing, humourously, that the Conference had by this confusion virtually deposed their President.

Mr. OSBORN resumed. He did not understand that Dr. Beaumont had accepted Dr. Hannah's explanation, as he concluded his remarks by complaining that Dr. Hannah had endorsed the statements of "Vates." He then persisted in affirming Dr. Beaumont's leadership of the opposition.

Dr. BEAUMONT protested against this line of conduct as most unfair. If Mr. Osborn had anything against him, it should be stated when his name was called.

Mr. GEORGE also protested against the insinuation of Mr. Osborn, that brethren, because they would not sign the "declaration," were to be considered desirous of subverting Methodism, to which they were as ardently attached as Mr. Osborn himself.

The PRESIDENT ruled that the matter should drop.

Mr. STEPHEN KAY requested a hearing, for some time in vain, but owing mainly to the intervention of Mr. W. M. Bunting, amid loud cries of "chair," he obtained it. He adverted at great length to a correspondence that had taken place between himself and Dr. Hannah, respecting an insinuation in the pamphlet by "Vates," that the article in the "Fly Sheets" respecting Mission-house expenditure had been written by a returned missionary, and that the returned missionary was himself. He would not have noticed the anonymous "Vates," had not Dr. Hannah given weight to the vile publication by attaching his name to it. The public would not understand the distinction made by Dr. Hannah between recommending the pamphlet and the argument of the pamphlet. No returned missionary was capable of writing the article in question in the "Fly Sheets." In the name of the returned missionaries he called upon the "Fly Sheet" writers and the man in the mask ("Vates") to prove the allegation. He was as ignorant as any man of the existence of the "Fly Sheets" till the postman brought them to his door. He asked where "Vates" was? Was he in the house? Dr. Hannah had not given his name, though he must know who he was. Again he challenged the masked man, "Vates," to throw off the mask.

Mr. SQUANCE had read "Vates'" pamphlet, and Dr. Hannah's recommendation, which he had understood in the sense which the Secretary had explained. Though a returned missionary, he had had no sensitiveness; as though the remark about a returned missionary having written a certain article had any reference to him.

After a few words from Dr. Hannah, the PRESIDENT thought it would be a relief both to mind and body to sing a few verses. He gave out the verse in p. 572—"Oh let us take a softer mould," &c.

CONFERENCE SUNDAY.

On Sunday, July 29, sermons were preached in all the Manchester Wesleyan chapels according to a plan which had been previously drawn up. To insert these, or even a sketch of them, would swell this publication beyond the compiler's design, and therefore they are entirely omitted.

MONDAY, JULY 30.

The ordinary business of the Conference was, as usual, superseded this morning, by a Public Religious Service in the Conference Chapel. The

President, (Rev. T. Jackson,) being still unable to attend, the chair was occupied by his brother, the Rev. S. Jackson. The Liturgy was read by the Rev. Dr. Hannah. There was an immense congregation. The official sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Newton, the Ex-President. The text was—Gal. vi. 14. "But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," and the discourse was characterized by the Doctor's usual impressiveness and eloquence.

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

On Monday evening, July the 30th, the public examination of the young men, who are candidates for ordination—(thirty-seven in number,) was commenced in Oldham Street Chapel, which was excessively crowded. The Rev. Dr. Newton (in consequence of the indisposition of the President) took the chair. The proceedings were commenced, at six o'clock, with the 701st hymn—"How beauteous are their feet," &c.,—after which the Rev. Dr. Hannah read the 61st chapter of Isaiah, and the Rev. G. Marsden engaged in prayer.

The names of the young men were—

Thomas Batten,	John Hebb,	John Parsons,
Robert Brown,	William Hessel,	Peter Prescott, jun.,
Joseph Chapman,	John Hirst,	William M. Punshon,
William F. Clarke,	James Hughes,	James H. Rigg,
Sampson Cock,	Edmund Knaggs,	John M. Roberts,
Richard Eland, jun,	John Livingston,	Richard Roberts,
George Elliott,	Thomas M'Cullagh,	William Rodman,
James Faulkner,	John M'Kenny,	Uriah Scott,
Edwin Fice,	George Mather,	Michael C. Taylor,
William Fox, 2nd.	James Mitchell,	John Thomas 2nd.
B. Frankland, jun., B.A.	William T. Nelson,	Walter Vercoe,
David Griffiths,	John Nowell, 2nd.	Richard Woodfin
Stephen P. Harvard,		

Dr. Newton regretted to say, that the President of the Conference was somewhat, though not seriously, indisposed,—in consequence, he believed, of the excitement and protracted exertion of examining their young friends on Saturday evening. He knew something of that business by experience, and might submit to Conference, whether it were a wise arrangement for the President, on a Saturday evening, to have to examine 30 or 40 young men on points of vast importance in reference to Christian Theology and Christian Experience, and then have to preach an Official Sermon next morning. He thought it very desirable, that the Examination should take place on some other evening. But, though he regretted the absence of the President,—as to its cause,—he hoped, by the good providence of God, soon to see him restored to health and vigour, and in his proper place. It had pleased God, also, to visit the late Secretary with a very painful and distressing affliction; and, he believed, at one period, the symptoms were very alarming. Many prayers had been offered on his behalf, and a prayer-hearing God had blessed the means employed. No man could look on that assembly without feeling an intense interest. He was one of those who thought it fitting, in addition to private examinations, that the Young Men should, in that public manner, "witness a good confession," and "before many witnesses." He should not have an opportunity of calling upon all those Young Men that night; but he would venture to say, that the

testimony of those whom they should hear, would, as to substance, be the same as that which the rest could give, if there had been opportunity. "It is, indeed, (he continued,) an important circumstance, that such a number of young men should be rising up to take our places,—to be the living teachers, when we shall be numbered with the dead. I always regarded this service with deep interest, for, the longer I live, the more concerned I feel, as to what will become of Methodism when many of us shall be no more,—when our tongues shall be silent in the grave. It is refreshing and encouraging to see such Young Men coming forwards, and I hope they will act their parts, in Wesleyan Methodism, with greater and happier effect than we have done."

He then proceeded to call upon the following Candidates:—Joseph Chapman, Stephen P. Harvard, John Hebb, Edward Knaggs, W. M. Punshon, J. H. Rigg, Robert Brown, and Edwin Fice.

Dr. NEWTON then said, the further examination must be adjourned to the following evening, at the same hour, six o'clock, when the proceedings would be punctually resumed. In this respect, his first superintendent set him an example which he had never forgotten. He was always, if possible, in the pulpit, five minutes before the hour announced for the commencement of service. This afforded time for reflection, for a little meditation, and for the exercise of personal devotion. Just as the finger pointed to the moment, up he got, and gave out the hymn. And, during the fifty years which had gone by, he (Dr. N.) had never been two minutes beyond the time, but it had given him pain. His conviction was, that punctuality was near akin to morals. If they allowed it to be published that service would commence at a certain hour, and failed to keep their engagement, what must the public think? Referring to the proceedings of the evening, he observed, they must have learned several lessons: two or three had certainly struck him. One was, that religion, in the main, was the same in his heart, in their hearts, and in every human heart, brought really and truly under the influence of truth and grace. There might be a diversity of circumstances: but its outlines were the same. Another thing was, the influence of pious parents,—a pious mother—a pious father; the effect of instruction given to children by pious parents! How many of their young brethren, that night, had borne testimony on this subject,—and how many of his hearers might do the same! He (Dr. Newton) had once tried to be an infidel. When between 16 and 17, he thought it would be an indication of a superior mind, if he threw off the prejudices (as they were termed) of education, and dared to think for himself. At all events, he dared to try: but, from the effect which he saw religion had upon the temper and conduct of his now sainted parents, he never could succeed:—he was sure there was a reality in religion,—that nothing but a divine influence could have produced what he saw in his parents. He called upon pious parents to continue to pray on,—to pray for their daughters as well as for their sons,—and who could tell the result? Another circumstance had struck him, namely, the clear account which their young friends had given of their personal conversion. Not one among them uttered an expression like one which he had lately heard—"Such a man became hopefully converted." "Hopefully converted," indeed! No: these young brethren had sought till they found "the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins;" till they had the witness of adoption into the family of God—the Spirit of the Lord bearing witness with their spirits that they were adopted, were put *among the children*, and that the heritage was theirs. He hoped they

would never stop short of this, as ministers; and then, from the fulness of their hearts, they would be able to declare it to their people.

The 1st Hymn, "O for a thousand tongues," &c., was then sung; and after prayer by the Revds. John Hobson and Corbett Cooke, the assembly separated.

TUESDAY, JULY 31.

The Conference opened at nine o'clock, as usual with singing and prayer. The examination of character was proceeded with.

After some communications respecting the state of health of the late Secretary and others, the Conference appointed a Committee to consider the subject of the future governorship of the Taunton Proprietary Grammar School.

In the case of Mr. Lowe, who, immediately after the last Conference, felt the renewal of his scruples to shave off his beard return with such force as to prevent his taking the circuit to which he had been appointed, the ex-President showed that he had used great forbearance, and had taken the earliest opportunity that presented itself to put him again into a circuit.

A Minute of the Bath district was read. It stated that at its annual meeting Mr. Bromley announced his serious objections to the declaratory law of 1835, as contrary to the word of God, and to Mr. Wesley's writings. The matter was left over until Mr. Bromley arrived to answer, in common with others of his brethren, questions which were to be proposed to them on the authority of those laws.

The young men, thirty-seven in number, who have travelled their period of probation, were privately examined on the previous Saturday evening by the President and Secretary of the Conference. Their Theological Examination before the whole Conference took place on Tuesday morning, from eleven to one o'clock, and was conducted, much to the satisfaction of the Conference, by Dr. Hannah.

Nothing particular occurred in the Theological Examination of the young men who were recommended from their several districts to be taken into full connexion.

The Ex-PRESIDENT stated that the President was highly satisfied with the result of the private examination which took place on the previous Saturday evening.

On the motion of Mr. MARSDEN, seconded by the SECRETARY of the CONFERENCE, they were all unanimously received into full connexion.

The Examination of Candidates for the Ministry was resumed on Tuesday evening, at six o'clock, in Oldham Street Chapel, Manchester. The public interest in the proceedings appeared to have suffered little or no diminution, the chapel being excessively crowded long before the hour appointed for the service. The Rev. R. Newton again occupied the chair, the health of the President not allowing of his attention as yet to the duties of his office. After singing, the Secretary read a portion of Scripture, and the Rev. Messrs. Williams and Reilly, from Ireland, offered prayer.

After the names of the young ministers had been called over, the brethren rising respectively,

Dr. NEWTON said,—We now resume the very pleasant and edifying work which was adjourned the last evening until the present time. All who were present last evening, who had any sense of spiritual religion in their hearts, will admit, as with one voice, it was good to be at that

meeting,—it was refreshing, it was edifying; and our friends did not come merely to see the faces or hear the voices of those young men who are to be their future teachers, but they came to listen to the testimonies that they were able to deliver, as to the power and efficacy of religion. And they were not disappointed. I would suggest (addressing the young men) that it may not be a more excellent way to give us a great deal of your personal history; that may be on record in some place, and I hope it will; but to-night we expect you will especially refer, in what you say, to your conversion to God, and the present state of your souls as regards real religion, and the convictions you have. Remember, you are not only called to be Christians, but Christian Ministers; and that you have chosen by your hearty good-will, a state and place among us as Wesleyan Ministers. I hope God will crown this meeting with his special blessing.

The following were then called upon, and related various particulars in connection with their conversion and call to the ministry:—Richard Eland, William Hessel, John Livingston, John M'Kenny, Michael C. Taylor, Walter Vercoe, Uriah Scott, and George Mather.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1.

THE ORDINATION SERVICE.

The solemn and interesting service of Ordination, took place this morning, in Irwell-street Chapel. The plan of admission was by tickets, granted, in the first instance, to the preachers, for the friends with whom they resided, and then to the public generally,—the body of the chapel (which was densely crowded) being reserved for the ministers and candidates.

The President, as early as half-past nine o'clock, commenced the proceedings by giving out the 744th hymn, on the institution of a gospel ministry, beginning, "The Saviour, when to heaven he rose;" after which the Rev. J. P. Haswell engaged in prayer.

The PRESIDENT then said,—We are assembled, this morning, on an occasion of deep and solemn interest. Several young ministers of Jesus Christ appear before you, who, having fulfilled their period of probation in our religious community, are now placed in this congregation, for the purpose of being solemnly set apart to the evangelical ministry. An opinion has been extensively prevalent among certain classes, that the Christian ministry is one of the learned professions. We do not regard it in this light. We account it not a profession, but a divine vocation. If it were simply a profession, a man might assume it as a matter of convenience, and lay it aside if it became irksome or disagreeable. But, if it be a divine vocation, woe to that man who is "disobedient to the heavenly calling," and refuses to carry the Saviour's message of mercy to a lost world: woe to that man, who, being invested with the evangelical ministry and the pastoral charge, declines his duty and office, becomes worldly in disposition, and seeks gratification and benefit from temporal engagements and pursuits. It may be said in a subordinate sense, concerning the young men now before you, as was said of the Saviour by Simeon, they are "set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel." Many, we have reason to hope, by their instrumentality, have been raised from guilt, wretchedness, and misery, to be really the "sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty, and heirs according to the hope of everlasting life." But, there is also reason to fear, that in some instances,

those who have attended their ministry remain unconverted, unbelieving, and rejecting the gospel of God against themselves; and then, the ministry which these young men have exercised may prove "a savour of death unto death." How sacred, solemn, important, and momentous, is the Christian ministry! These young men have undergone various examinations in private, also before the Conference, and several of them, during the last two evenings, have borne public testimony "before many witnesses," as to the reality of their personal conversion, and as to their inward and divine call. They appear before this Christian assembly, this morning, that they may have an interest in your united sympathies and devotions. I request your prayers on behalf of these young servants of the Lord Jesus Christ; and may these prayers come before the throne of the heavenly grace, like a cloud of incense, may they be heard and answered from heaven, and may the Holy Ghost come down on these our young brethren in all his plenitude and heavenly influence;—so that their career, whether brief or long-continued, may be marked by the divine presence, approbation, and blessing.

The names of the candidates having been called over, the PRESIDENT proceeded to read various portions of the word of God, relating to the appointment and duties of ministers,—namely, Matt. xxviii. from verse 18; John x. 1—16; John xxi. 15—17; Acts xx. 17—38; and Eph. iv. 7. The candidates then stood up, and the President read the impressive exhortation in "the form and manner of ordaining priests," commencing "You have heard, brethren," &c. Then followed the questions as to their call to the ministry, and their conviction of the sufficiency of the scriptures as containing all things necessary to salvation. The President then enquired: "As you are to exercise your ministry under the direction of the Wesleyan Conference, have you attentively read the four first volumes of Mr. Wesley's Sermons, and his Notes on the New Testament? And do you believe that the system of doctrine therein contained is in accordance with holy scripture?"

The PRESIDENT—I have also to ask, have you read the Large Minutes of Conference, and do you believe that the general system of discipline contained therein is agreeable to holy scripture; and whether you will maintain and enforce it in the societies committed to your charge?"

To these succeeded the usual questions as to their determination to use all diligence and faithfulness; to administer the doctrines and sacraments according to Christ's command; to oppose all false doctrine; to exemplify and enforce the truth by consistent and holy lives; to maintain quietness, peace, and love amongst all Christian people; and to obey the chief ministers to whom the government of the society's affairs are entrusted. To each of which questions the candidates replied, separately, in the affirmative.

After silent prayer was offered, the congregation joined in singing the 439th hymn, commencing,—*"Thy power and saving truth to show."*—The ordination then took place at the communion table, the candidates kneeling, and the President, with the Revds. G. Marsden, Drs. Newton and Hannah, J. Scott, and W. Atherton, laying their hands severally upon the head of every one of them, the President saying, *"Mayest thou receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Christian minister and pastor, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands, and be thou a faithful and diligent dispenser of the word of God, and of his holy sacraments, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."*

The President then, delivering to them a copy of the holy scriptures, said—"Take thou authority to preach the word of God, and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation."

Returning to the desk, the President addressed to the young preachers the charge delivered at the consecration of bishops, commencing; "Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and doctrine," &c. Prayer having been offered, and the 279th hymn sung, the sacrament was administered to the newly-ordained ministers, the President being assisted in its administration by the Rev. Dr. Hannah.

Dr. NEWTON then ascended the pulpit, and gave out the last two verses of the 26th hymn. He then proceeded to address the young ministers from 2 Timothy ii. 15; "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

After a long and able address, the proceedings were closed with singing and the usual devotions.

Wednesday Evening, August 1st.

The Conference resumed its sittings this evening, at the usual hour.

The PRESIDENT (who had not appeared on the platform since Saturday) thought it right to explain the cause of his absence. It had not arisen from a disposition to shrink from any part of his duty, but because he had been unwell; not, indeed, in any danger, but he felt himself unable to attend their sittings. He was not quite sure, whether, at that particular period of their proceedings, the duties imposed upon their President were not too onerous. There was an important examination of the young candidates for ordination, which took place on the Saturday evening; then they usually appointed their President a service on the Sunday forenoon; and these engagements, taken in connection with his other duties, required no common degree of physical and mental strength. He was thankful to appear among them again—(cheers)—and hoped the business would still be carried on with regularity and diligence. He felt obliged to the ex-President for kindly taking his place, and to his brother for performing the Sunday morning service.

LATE ATTENDANCE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Mr. KENDALL wished to draw the attention of the Conference to the late attendance of some congregations on public worship.

The PRESIDENT observed that the subject was of considerable importance, but that the present was not the time to bring it on. If there should be time after the stations were settled, and all ordinary business was transacted, Mr. Kendall might then bring the matter forward.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

Mr. COOKE, chairman of the Macclesfield district, brought forward the case of Mr. C. Rawlings, a preacher in his district, who had declined answering certain questions which Mr. Cooke, by the law of 1835, felt himself at liberty to ask all the brethren of his district respecting the "Fly-Sheets." He expressed his belief that these declaratory laws were in accordance with the law of Christ, and necessary to preserve the purity of the body. He was himself willing, from time to time, to be dealt with in the same way, for he observed the golden rule. Mr. Rawlings, who had not signed the declaration, on being asked by the chair-

man at the May meeting whether he approved of the "Fly-Sheets," had said that some things in them were true, but would go no further in giving him satisfaction than to say, "I preach against slander." Ninety-nine out of a hundred preachers think that the Conference should purge itself from these "Fly-Sheet" writers. Some men were crotchety.

Mr. DUNN rose to order, and to inquire whether there was any minute on the subject. It appearing that there was not, the matter dropped for the time.

The PRESIDENT observed that these laws of 1835 were an essential part of our discipline.

A series of services having been held at Runcorn by a local preacher,* the district meeting had recommended the discontinuance of employing him in that way. His piety and zeal were readily acknowledged.

At the Liverpool District Meeting, a conversation had taken place relative to the refusal, on the part of the Rev. Charles Cheetham, of Chester, to renew the note of a member of the congregation, thus preventing him receiving the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and had declined to give a reason for so doing. The report of the meeting was, that it was desirable, generally, that a reason should be given in such cases, but it was thought that, under the extraordinary circumstances of the case, Mr. Cheetham had acted properly.

THE REV. DANIEL WALTON'S CASE.

This case was introduced to the attention of the Conference on Wednesday evening, occupying a considerable portion of the evening session, the whole of Thursday forenoon, and about half the following evening. The deep silence that succeeded (for a few minutes) as soon as the Secretary of the Conference read "the Manchester and Bolton district," was evidence of the importance attached to the present question, "Is there any objection against Daniel Walton?" The minutes of the Minor District Meeting, as confirmed by the annual meeting, and recommending that Mr. Walton should be censured from the chair of the District Meeting, and be incapable for the present of filling the office of superintendent, were read. They were very voluminous, and occupied about forty minutes in reading.

The following is the substance of the resolutions of the Minor District Meeting on the case of the Rev. D. Walton:—

"1. That this meeting believes the charge of T. P. Bunting, Esq., to be fully sustained.

"2. That it deeply regrets to witness the spirit and conduct of the Rev. D. Walton in the circumstances in which he is placed.

"3. That it warns him against the course to which he appears to be committing himself.

"4. That, for the purpose of bringing these things fully before his attention in private, a respectful but admonitory letter be addressed to him.

"5. In the hope that he may repent, it requires, as an expression of that feeling, a reply to the more important questions put to him, but which he has hitherto declined to answer, as the very least thing he can do. That, should he still persist in his refusal, the meeting will feel compelled to recommend a course to the Conference which it grieves it to contemplate.

* Mr. David Greenbury.

" 6. That the Committee be adjourned till the President receive such communications from Mr. Walton as shall appear to him to render such a meeting desirable."

A copy of the admonitory letter was read. Mr. Walton replied to this letter, which he said was "a serious, and, on the whole, a kind letter."

At an adjourned District Meeting, held on Friday, May 11, it was resolved:—

" 1. That nothing had occurred to alter the judgement of the members as to the improper spirit and conduct of Mr. Walton.

" 2. It deeply regrets that brother Walton still keeps back those papers which he says would clear him if produced, and will clear him at a future period.

" 3. That, on the supposition that he still continues to withhold them till Conference, it recommends:—1st. That he be admonished from the chair at the District Meeting. 2. That he be considered as disqualified for the duties of superintendent. 3. But it regrets the conduct of the brethren, Messrs. Everett and Burdsall, in absenting themselves from the first District Meeting, after being summoned thither by the President, especially in the case of the former of these brethren, who assigned as one reason for non-attendance, the fact of his having to cross the country, when, at the same time, he was not far from Manchester."

The regular District Meeting, after hearing the minutes of the above meetings, resolved—

" 1. This meeting expresses its conviction of the care and diligence with which the whole case has been investigated by the members of the Minor District Meeting.

" 2. It expresses its entire approval of the report of the Minor District Meeting.

" 3. That the attention of this meeting having been incidentally directed to brother W. T. Radcliffe, this meeting expresses its sympathy with him, and its persuasion that he has acted an honourable part.

" 4. That if it be thought needful by the members of the Minor District Meeting that the whole of its minutes be published, it has the full sanction of this meeting to publish them."

It will be seen from the above that Mr Walton made an appeal to the Conference. It was asked whether Mr. Walton had given proper notice of such an appeal; and it was ascertained that he had not. Nevertheless, the appeal was allowed.

The PRESIDENT then asked Mr. Walton to state the grounds on which his appeal was made. He did not wish him to enter into the general subject, but simply to state the *grounds* on which he appealed.

Mr. WALTON stated that he would do so in a very brief manner. He objected, for one thing, though he did not lay any great stress on this, but still he did object, to the occasion on which that subject was first introduced. He did not think that a Missionary Committee, in which there were forty or fifty laymen, was the place in which a charge was to be brought against a Christian Minister. He further stated that the finding of the District Meeting was not supported by the evidence furnished it; that not the slightest evidence was furnished of his participation in the preparation or publication of the "Fly-Sheets." He further stated, that the threat of suspension having been held over *him for six months*, was a punishment greater than his case merited.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2.

THE REV. DANIEL WALTON'S CASE.

Mr. NAYLOR said that he had intended not to make a speech on this subject—to say nothing except in reply to questions that might be proposed to him. He thought that the Conference had broken up with an impression unfavourable to the members of the Minor District Meeting, produced unintentionally by Mr. Walton as it regarded the first ground of appeal. Mr. Walton consented as much as any other member of it to the introduction of that question. No one, he believed, knew what that question was. He did not; he had no more suspicion of what it was than Mr. Walton had. Leave had been asked to put a question to a minister in that meeting—not one member of that meeting had objected to the question being proposed—and he (Mr. Naylor) thought that Mr. Walton ought not now to make that an objection. As to the other matters, he was quite sure that the feeling of the meeting was in favour of Mr. Walton—that there was no disposition to prove him, to find him, or to believe him guilty; and that the reason why they had not come to a decision on the case at once was prompted solely by a wish not to be hasty in the matter, and to allow Mr. Walton time to reconsider his position, in the hope that he would communicate the information he possessed as to the anonymous calumniators of the brethren. The first Minor District Meeting resolved that the meeting should be adjourned till Mr. Walton communicated with the Chairman, and desired it to meet, in order that he might purge himself of all ground of suspicion of being connected with the writers of the “Fly-Sheets.” Mr. Walton held in his hand, on one occasion, a book, which he said would enable him to clear himself, and which would clear him some day. The members of the meeting had entreated him to clear himself—they had entreated him with tears—but in vain. It had been Mr. Walton’s fault that the meeting had not come to a satisfactory decision, and if he would now clear himself, no persons in the Conference would rejoice more than the members of that Minor District Meeting.

The Rev. JONATHAN CROWTHER confirmed Mr. Naylor’s remarks; and added that Mr. Walton’s statement as to nothing having been proved against him was fitted to make a false impression. All that the Minor District Meeting declared to be proved was this, that the Rev. D. Walton was cognizant of, if not a participator in, the production of the “Fly-Sheets.”

The Rev. Dr. BUNTING regretted, that, from his position the previous evening, he had not rightly apprehended one feature in the case. He now understood that Mr. Walton had refused to bring forward his appeal at the May District Meeting from the decision of the Minor District Meeting, and referred his appeal to the Conference. This course, he submitted, was unconstitutional. If Mr. Walton wished to appeal to the Conference, that appeal should have been from the Minor District Meeting to the regular District Meeting; and that if he was dissatisfied with its decision, then an appeal was open to him to the Conference. By refusing, however, to make his appeal at the May District Meeting, he had put it out of his legal power to bring forward that appeal before the Conference. It must be understood that the May District Meeting was a regular legal tribunal. Great importance had been attached to this fact in Dr. Warren’s case. Nevertheless, he was perfectly willing that Mr. Walton should be heard; but it could be done only by a special rule in the case.

Dr. BEAUMONT asked if Mr. Walton had been distinctly informed by the Chairman of the May District Meeting, that, by refusing to bring forward his appeal before that meeting, he was disqualifying himself from making an appeal to the Conference?

It was stated that he was told that that District Meeting *must adjudge* upon his case, whether he would make an appeal to it or not.

Dr. BUNTING said that the first step to be taken was to hear the evidence.

The whole of the minutes were then read, and the resolutions of the various District Meetings re-read.

The Rev. R. REECE then moved that the Report of the May District Meeting be received.

Dr. DIXON rose. Expectation was all on tiptoe, as it was supposed that the Doctor sympathized with Mr. Walton. He said he had come there with a mind as unbiassed as possible; he had listened as a judge. He had known Mr. Walton long, and respected him greatly. He must, however, say, that he thought the finding of the District Meeting was in perfect accordance with the evidence, and that the Minor District Meeting had conducted itself very satisfactorily. He seconded the adoption of the Report.

The Rev. W. M. BUNTING said that the character of Mr. Walton, as a Wesleyan Minister, was dearer to him than that of his own beloved and generous-hearted brother, T. P. Bunting; and he thought that that brother had acted improperly in bringing forward the matter when and where he did, and that the District Meeting had done wrong in entertaining it. But that did not at all affect the principle of the case. He believed that Mr. Walton cherished a chivalrous sentiment of honour, and such a sentiment might perhaps very properly have impelled him to act as he had done. But when the whole case of the "Fly-Sheets" came up, he thought Mr. W. would then stand in a very different position. He thought that such a sentiment toward a private friend ought to give way to a similar sentiment for his calumniated brethren and the cause of Jesus Christ—(applause.)

The Rev. S. DUNN moved, as an amendment, that in consequence of the unprecedented manner in which the proceedings against Mr. Walton commenced—the pain of mind Mr. Walton has experienced for some months, and the inconclusive nature of the evidence adduced—the resolutions of the District Meeting be not received.

The PRESIDENT ruled that this was not an amendment, but a direct negative and could not, therefore, be admitted.

Mr. WALTON said, that the whole case could be put into a nut-shell. It amounted just to this: that Mr. Radcliffe had seen an MS. in his (Mr. Walton's) study. Some of the *sentiments* contained in this MS. appeared in No. 2 "Fly-Sheets." He now solemnly declared that he did not lend that MS. to his friend with any knowledge that it would be employed in the "Fly-Sheets," nor with any intention that it should be so employed (cheers.) If, however, his brethren pronounced sentence against him, he would bow to that decision, be it what it might.

Dr. NEWTON thought he ought to say a word. These facts should be considered. When Mr. Walton was asked to whom he had lent the MS., his answer was, "I decline to answer." He was asked how long the MS. had been out of his possession? His reply was, "Three or four days." "Did you require an apology from that friend when you found that he had published some of your sentiments without your

consent?" it was asked. "I decline to answer," was the reply. Now, were these things to go for nothing?

After remarks from Dr. Bunting, Mr. Lomas, Mr. Griffith, and others, Mr. WALTON said, that he regretted the use that had been made of his MS., and condemned the "Fly-Sheets"—(loud applause.)

Mr. W. LORD said, that he deemed it right to say that Mr. Walton had not made this statement under the influence of present emotion, as he had made a similar statement to himself that morning.

The motion was then put, and with the exception of Samuel Dunn, William Griffith, jnr., and Robert Harrison, the Report of the District Meeting was unanimously received and adopted.

THE EX-PRESIDENT'S SERMON AND CHARGE.

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR said, he was sure that every one present at the Ordination Service had been gratified and delighted with the excellent Address of the ex-President. The young men to whom it had been delivered earnestly wished it to be printed; and he moved that Dr. Newton be requested to comply with their wishes.

Dr. HANNAH (the Secretary) read an appropriate letter from the young men, conveying this request.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. NEWTON was grateful to his young brethren and to the Conference, for their kind approval of his charge. He had been engaged, as they well knew, in a long previous service, and he carried no note with him into the pulpit at any time. Had he possessed leisure, he might have tried to do better. He could not tell how matters might be in future; he might have a little more time: some said the curate system was now to be put an end to; if so, he might, perhaps, be able, in his old age, to do something in the way of writing.

The Rev. W. M. BUNTING proposed, that Dr. Newton be requested to favour the Conference with the substance of the official sermon preached before it on Monday,—on which he pronounced a high eulogium. He thought it very appropriate, as being the Doctor's Jubilee Conference. He (Mr. B.) should not have attended the Conference this year, had it not been to evince his respect for the venerable men of that body, and he desired to express his growing respect for Dr. Newton's personal ministry.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT said, he had risen, just as Mr. Bunting rose, expressly to make the same proposition. When the Ex-President got time to write his charge, he hoped he would also take time to write his sermon.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT very affectionately urged the request on Dr. Newton. "You cannot," said he, "live for ever: we are all on our way to our Father's house above,—'the palace of angels and God,'—and I hope you will live among the people by publishing something of what you have preached."

Dr. NEWTON felt thankful for the request, because it was an evidence that his brethren felt as much attached as ever to the great doctrine of the atonement.

Dr. BUNTING alluded to St. Paul's epistles, several of which were written during his imprisonment, and suggested, that the brethren should suspend their requests for the pulpit services of Dr. Newton for a short period, in order to give him time to prepare for publication what had now been solicited.

THE LATE SECRETARY.

A letter was read from Mr. Robert Fowler, son of the late Secretary, acknowledging, in his father's name, the resolutions which had been presented to him by the Conference,—expressive of their sense of his services, and their sympathy with him in his affliction,—and declaring, in return, his gratitude for the courteous and affectionate terms in which the resolution had been conveyed.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN AMERICA.

The PRESIDENT stated, that he held in his hand an address from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. It was agreed, after a short conversation, that Dr. Dixon, Dr. Beecham, and Mr. Lomas, should be appointed to bring up the address, and the draft of an answer, for the consideration of the Conference.

ASSISTANT MISSIONARIES IN THE EAST.

A long discussion took place on the *status* of assistant missionaries in India, occasioned by the resignation of two individuals who have been employed in that capacity. It was ultimately moved by the Rev. Peter Duncan, seconded by the Rev. Alexander Bell, and agreed to, that the whole question should be submitted to the Missionary Committee.

Dr. BEECHAM stated that intelligence had just been received of the death of the Rev. Robert L. Lusher, of Montreal.

MR. SAMUEL DUNN'S CASE, AS EDITOR OF THE "WESLEY BANNER."

Again the attention of the Conference was hushed into temporary silence, when the Secretary came to the Nottingham and Derby district, and inquired, "Is there any objection to Samuel Dunn?"

The chairman of the district handed the minutes of the May district meeting to the Secretary, who read them. They are as follow:—

"The following charges were preferred against the Rev. Samuel Dunn by the Rev. W. H. Clarkson, viz.:—

"This meeting having heard the charges preferred by the Rev. W. H. Clarkson against the Rev. Samuel Dunn, and having at great length, and at various sittings of the District Committee, heard Mr. Dunn in reply to these charges, it is in evidence:—

"1. That Mr. Dunn did, on the 11th instant, communicate to the editors of *The Wesleyan Times* newspaper that 'he had received notice, as one of the editors of the Wesley Banner, of four charges to be preferred against him at this district meeting;' that Mr. Dunn has, during these proceedings, intimated that 'the acts of this district committee would go before the world;' that 'the meeting must take care what it does;' and that 'no power upon earth shall prevent him from judging and acting for himself in matters of this sort.'

"2. It is further in evidence, that Mr. Dunn is the avowed and ostensible editor of a monthly periodical called the 'Wesley Banner,' which periodical is now extensively circulated in our connexion—that the tendency of this publication is to promote 'strifes and divisions,'—that it greatly endangers the peace of our societies, and is dividing our people, both in sentiment and feeling, of which we have some painful instances in our own district.

"3. That after long and patiently considering all the circumstances of this case, several of the senior ministers in this committee, and

others, expressed a strong wish, if possible, to have the whole matter by mutual concessions and agreement, amicably settled. The state and circumstances of our Connexion did in their judgement justify this feeling:—

“Whereupon Mr. Clarkson expressed his willingness to withdraw all charges against Mr. Dunn on condition that the ‘Wesley Banner,’ to which the cause of complaint referred, be at once given up. This proposal was most strongly and affectionately urged upon Mr. Dunn, both from the chair, and by almost every minister in the meeting. This recommendation Mr. Dunn positively declined.

“Under all these circumstances, and after long and prayerful deliberations on this subject, we are of opinion:—

“1. That the publication called the ‘Wesley Banner,’ and edited by Brother Dunn, ought to be discontinued.

“2. That, in accordance with this opinion, Brother Dunn be required immediately to suspend its publication.

“3. That in case this publication continue to be edited and published by Mr. Dunn, the whole matter be referred to the Conference.”

“The following amendment was moved by the Rev. W. GRIFFITH, seconded by the Rev. J. C. GEORGE:—

“That these resolutions cannot be received by this meeting, inasmuch as they do not contain a verdict upon the charges brought against Mr. Dunn, but, on the contrary, introduce *fresh matter* of charge of which he has received no notice, and in reference to which, as far as those new charges depend upon Mr. Dunn’s statement, he denies ever having uttered the sentiments attributed to him, and has affirmed again and again, that if he did, he recalled them, as he never intended to utter them, and never so much as had the sentiment in his mind; and, moreover, because no evidence has been adduced to show that the effect of the ‘Wesley Banner’ has been to disturb the peace of any society.”

Papers on Wesleyan Matters.

“**Ques.** What is the judgment of this meeting respecting the circulation in our body of letters and papers, published anonymously, on ‘Wesleyan Matters;’ and in the present excited state of our connexion what do we recommend to the Conference?

“**Ans.** After a very careful and calm consideration of this subject, and viewing it, especially with reference to its important bearing upon the peace and harmony of our societies, we are of opinion—

“1. That these anonymous publications are mischievous in their tendency, divisive in their influence, and tend greatly to promote, both among the ministers and people, strifes and divisions; and we recommend the Conference to institute a searching inquiry into these great evils, and to adopt such measures as will restore mutual confidence, peace, and unity, in our circuits and societies.

“2. That this District Committee, in the peculiar circumstances in which it is placed with reference to a member of this meeting, whose case has been heard and adjudicated, feel bound, in justice to all parties, and for the interests of the connexion generally, to declare it as their firm conviction, that the time is fully come when the Conference should interpose and put an end to all anonymous and unauthorized publications now circulated in the body; and they call the special attention of the Conference to a periodical which commenced last January, called ‘Papers on Wesleyan Matters,’ and which they regret to find has been

sold and circulated through the medium of our book-room. Papers which, loud in their condemnation of 'anonymous writing and slanders,' are themselves anonymous; and that, in the judgement of this committee, these 'Papers on Wesleyan Matters' contain serious and unjust insinuations and aspersions upon the character of several of our ministers; and that they are in their spirit and tendency calculated, not to allay, but rather to gender strifes and divisions in the connexion; and this District Committee earnestly recommend that these 'Papers' be at once discontinued.

"3. That this District Committee deeply deplores the wide-spread existence of party-spirit amongst the ministers and members of our beloved Connexion, which spirit they affirm is utterly at variance with the law of Christ, and the spirit of the gospel, and expresses its decided conviction that what is *now needed*, and, in truth, is indispensably requisite, in order to secure the peace of our societies and the Connexion at large, is *rest!*—rest from the strife of tongues—rest from anonymous writing and slanders—and rest from secret and concealed attacks upon character, especially upon ministers; and in order to prevent as much as possible the progress of strife and debate and consequent division in our Connexion, this committee recommend the enforcement of our old rule, passed in 1795, viz.: 'that no pamphlet or printed letter be circulated among us without the author's name;' and 'as the preachers are eminently *one body*,' nothing should be done by any individual which would be prejudicial to the whole; the 'peace and honour of the Connexion outweighing with us all minor considerations.'"

The PRESIDENT, as soon as these minutes were read, stated this was a serious case, as, from at least a dozen memorials he had received from Nottingham North Circuit, it was evident the circuit was in an awful state of agitation.

The EX-PRESIDENT said that he, too, had received as many memorials, and affairs were in a most ruinous state in that circuit.

Mr. DUNN then inquired whether the Conference was prepared to hear his appeal, and receiving from the President a reply in the affirmative, Mr. Dunn made his appeal from the decision of the District Meeting to the judgment of the Conference in nearly the following words:—

"I appeal to the Conference assembled in Manchester against the decision of the Nottingham and Derby District Meeting,—

"1. Because the charges preferred against me by Mr. W. H. Clarkson contain principles that are anti-Wesleyan and anti-English.

"2. Because the *Wesley Banner*, on which the charges are founded, contains no sentiments but what are strictly Wesleyan, and nothing controversial but what is defensive.

"3. Because the meeting refused either to condemn or acquit me on the charges of which I had received official notice.

"4. Because neither the District meeting, nor any member of it, ventured to affirm that my accuser had substantiated his charges.

"5. Because Mr. W. B. Stephenson was allowed, on the last day of the District, to introduce a long string of resolutions, on which Mr. Bird, the chairman, ruled, before the meeting had even heard them, that there should be no debate on them, though other members, as well as myself, *protested against* such irregularity and injustice.

"6. Because in these resolutions fresh charges were introduced, of

which I had no notice, and which were founded on something, it was said, I had uttered in my defence three days before.

"7. Because in these new charges language was attributed to me which I never uttered, and sentiments which I never entertained.

"8. Because I stated that *had* I uttered such words and sentiments some days before while making my defence, I *retracted* them.

"9. Because, when some members of the meeting said that in their opinion my defence was satisfactory, and my offer to retract the expressions, had they been uttered, ought to be accepted, they were most arbitrarily and indecorously clamoured down."

Mr. Dunn immediately sat down, and the President expressed an opinion that the case should be referred to a committee.

Mr. DUNN inquired whether any preacher, feeling himself injured by the decision of a District Meeting, had a right to be heard before the Conference?

To this question the PRESIDENT promptly replied, "Certainly not;" but, upon Mr. Dunn renewing the question with marked emphasis,

The PRESIDENT replied that the Conference had the right to appoint a committee to hear the case.

A third time, in reply to the question again asked, the President affirmed that the mode of hearing rested with the Conference, as otherwise the Conference would have its mode of proceeding determined by each individual member, and so the time would be wasted. "Is this English?" asked the President, in reference, it is supposed, to Mr. Dunn's declaration of the anti-English character of the proceedings instituted against him.

Unable, as a matter of right, to demand a hearing in open Conference, Mr. Dunn then requested it as a favour. This being opposed, he urged that a similar favour had been granted to Mr. Walton, and he solicited it for himself.

Mr. GEORGE, for a few moments gained a hearing. He spoke in favour of Mr. Dunn, observing that every man who thought for himself would be said to have peculiarities. The charges now brought against Mr. Dunn in the minutes of the District Meeting, were not the charges originally brought against him, and on which he stood on his trial in May last.

The PRESIDENT ruled that Mr. George was out of order, and he was compelled to silence. The President said he would nominate in the morning a committee before whom Mr. Dunn would be heard in support of his appeal.

The committee consisted of Messrs. Atherton, S. Jackson, John Scott, R. Young, and E. Walker.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3.

THE CASE OF MESSRS. EVERETT AND BURDSALL.

The morning sitting was occupied with examination of character.

There being no record in the minutes of the York District Meeting respecting these supernumerary ministers, the Secretary gave notice that he should, at the close of the ordinary examination of character, request permission of the Conference to put certain questions to these brethren.

Accordingly, on the Conference resuming its sittings on Friday evening, at five o'clock, the greatest interest prevailed, as it was understood that these supernumeraries were to be immediately put to the question.

A long discussion on the declaratory laws of 1835 having followed the reading of those laws,

The SECRETARY said that as Mr. Everett was strongly suspected as the chief author of the "Fly-Sheets," he should, with the leave of the Conference, propose to him, without any bitterness of spirit, a short series of questions.

Leave being at once granted, Mr. Everett was called forward, when the SECRETARY, holding a paper in his hand containing a series of questions, asked him first—

1. "Mr. Everett, are you the writer or author of the 'Fly-Sheets?'"

To this Mr. EVERETT replied: "Am I the first on the list of those who have not signed the Declaration? When the brethren whose names occur in the minutes before mine have answered the question then will I. Why am I singled out from all the rest? Till others, whose names occur before mine, answer, I will not answer, even if my refusal be followed by immediate expulsion!"

On the question being pressed, Mr. EVERETT demanded the name of his accuser, the charge against him in writing, and an opportunity to defend himself in a constitutional way.

On being told that he was strongly suspected, and that for this reason he was questioned, he, after several replies, said: I will answer no questions. I know the temper of this Conference. An answer shall never be extorted from me.

After some further remarks from the platform,

Mr. EVERETT asked the Conference what motives induced them to fix on him merely on suspicion?

This called forth tremendous cheers, and on being told he was the most suspected, his reply was: "If I am the most suspected, then there must be the most evidence against me. Produce it."

On the original question being again proposed, he replied, "I will not answer the question. I will never submit to an Inquisition."

This remark elicited most unrestrained marks of disapprobation from the Conference.

Finding Mr. Everett would not answer the questions, he was desired to retire to his seat.

Dr. HANNAH then called for Mr. BURDSALL, who, though evidently enfeebled by age, came forth with much firmness to be put to the question.

He also gave a firm refusal to answer any such question; if accused of any crime, he required the charge to be presented. For fifty years had he been in the ministry, and he had never before been questioned in that way. "Am I accused?" asked he ("yes, yes!" replied many voices). "Then by whom am I accused?" was his prompt reply. He, too, giving forth no answer, was desired to resume his seat.

Dr. BEAUMONT immediately rose. "It was particularly unfortunate," said he, "that Dr. Hannah should have undertaken to propose these questions—Dr. Hannah, who had himself sanctioned anonymous slander, by recommending the pamphlet of 'Vates.'" (Here Dr. Beaumont was cried down by tremendous shouts of "order.")

Dr. HANNAH expressed himself ready to answer any question; and so did JOHN WESLEY THOMAS.

At this stage of the proceedings, the PRESIDENT requested Messrs. Everett and Burdsall to withdraw, as is usually done, while the Conference deliberated on their case.

A long discussion followed, in which Dr. BEAUMONT, while contending

against the course pursued, was met by great interruption, intermingled with some hisses, and, having in vain attempted to be heard, said, "Since the Conference will not hear me, I must sit down." He at once resumed his seat,

Mr. G. MARSDEN proposed postponing coming to a conclusion till the following (Saturday) morning; it would be more dignified, and would give all parties time for reflection.

Messrs. Cusworth and Vevers were appointed to inform Messrs. Everett and Burdsall that the Conference would at nine o'clock on Saturday morning give them another opportunity to reply to the question, already put, and others that were to follow it.

After an hour's interval, Mr. Vevers reported that Messrs. Everett and Burdsall had received them in a very kind, gentlemanly, and ministerial way, but that they both declined attending at nine o'clock, unless some charges were brought against them, which they would meet.

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

On Friday, as Mr. Bromley was not at Conference, the letter addressed to him, summoning him to attend, was read; as also was his reply, which is subjoined:—

"Walcot Chapel House, Bath, 30th July, 1849.

"Reverend Sir,—Your communication reached me yesterday (Sunday) morning, just as I was leaving home to take the pulpit in New King-street Chapel. Strange preparation for that momentous service!

"Not having received notice of any charges to be preferred against me at the time my name occurs in the Conference examination, and knowing that the rule of 1792, repeated in 1807, required that notice of *all* charges, with the name of the accuser or accusers, shall *precede* inquiry into their truth, I regard the summons you have sent me, to appear before the Conference now sitting, upon a question of character, as arbitrary, illegal, and unjust.

"If I understand the letter forwarded to me aright, I am called to Conference to answer certain interrogatories to be proposed to me under the provisions of the law found at page 112 of the Minutes of 1835; though, as to what those interrogatories are, and by whom they are to be proposed, I am left utterly in the dark. I trouble you, therefore, Mr. President, with this letter, distinctly to aver, that any questions put to me under the provisions of that law, I cannot, and will not answer; believing it, as I most religiously do, to be an enactment steeped in apostasy and unbelief. To assent to that law in any shape were to renounce the vows and obligations which I contracted when I became a Wesleyan minister, to deride and contemn our standard writings, and to fly in the face of the word and authority of the Son of God. The 'errors, ignorances, and offences,' of my Christian and ministerial character are, alas! manifold; but I am not prepared to *do this great wickedness and sin against God*. It is a question of submission to the Conference, or to the word and majesty of the Son of God: and I prefer the latter. If for a moment I incline to submit in this instance to a body of men whom I have served faithfully in the gospel for thirty-seven years, I hear those words spoken to my heart, as it were in thunders of remonstrance, '*Whosoever shall be ashamed of me, and of my word, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels.*' This is my testimony, by which, with the assistance of him whose word I thus revere, I am prepared, under any extremity, to abide.

"If, however, the Conference prefer that I shall deliver this, my testimony (and no other testimony have I to deliver,) in person before its assembly, I will endeavour to do so, God being my helper.

"But, to enable me to do this, I have a request to make. I am without the means of travelling to Manchester. For thirty-seven years I have aided, in my capacity as a Wesleyan minister, to sustain the Contingent fund. I hope, therefore, it is not too much to ask, that the Conference will, in this emergency, instruct the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund to remit me the sum requisite for my expenses to and from Manchester.

"I must also take permission to remind you, Mr. President, that I cannot very well, when in Manchester, lodge in the streets, and that, therefore, it is proper that lodgings should be provided for me, and that I should be made acquainted with them.

"If, in addition to these things, you will acquaint me with the *day* and *hour* when the Conference will receive my testimony, I will endeavour to appear and give it. I say **MY TESTIMONY**—for to answer interrogatories proposed to me under the provisions of the unholy and Popish law of 1835, is what, God being my helper, I will never do!

"And now, Mr. President, I charge it upon your personal honour and presidential integrity, that this letter be openly and distinctly read to the Conference.

"I remain, Rev. Sir, respectfully and sincerely yours,

"JAMES BROMLEY.

"The President of the Wesleyan Conference."

The reading of this letter produced, from time to time, vociferous expressions of disapprobation and abhorrence.

Mr. RULE particularly commented upon the expressions, "steeped in apostacy and unbelief;" "arbitrary, illegal, and unjust;" "the unholy and Popish law of 1835." He was for the immediate expulsion of Mr. Bromley.

Mr. RIGG referred to the effect their decision might have on the Bath people, if it were taken precipitately.

Another letter, peremptorily requiring Mr. Bromley's attendance, stating that he would be questioned respecting his suspected connection with the publication of the "Fly-Sheets Vindicated," and assuring him that his expenses would be paid, was ordered to be sent to him.

SUPERNUMERARIES.

In the course of the evening sitting, on Friday, Dr. HANNAH proposed that, as their time was short, the Conference should depart a little from its usual mode of proceeding, and take up some questions which it was necessary to consider, before the Stationing Committee could meet again. This proposition being agreed to, the question, Who are now to become Supernumeraries? was entered upon, and the following names were taken down:—

Name.	Circuit.	Period of service.
John Nelson, 1st	Windsor (for one year)	30 years.
W. Brocklehurst	Chatteris	41
Henry Cheverton	Wisbeach	42
William Edwards, 1st.....	Bungay	36
Henry Hicks.....	Tavistock	13
William Thomas	Budleigh Salterton.....	6
James Heaton	Tewkesbury	43
William Williams, 1st.	Dudley (for one year)	16
William Wears.....	Leek	25

Thomas Stead	Hull, East (for one year)	37 years.
Edward Abraham	Bridlington	24
Robert Bryant	Brigg	35
John Willis	Bishop Auckland	42
James Roberts	South Shields	12
John M. Pearson	Sunderland	16
John Nicklin.....	Shaftesbury (for one year)	24

IN IRELAND.

Samuel Downing	Clones	41
Edward Cobain	Carrickfergus (for one year)....	39
William Cornwall	Tuam (for one year)	35

The following ministers who have been supernumeraries, are again to be employed in the regular work of the ministry:—

George Southern | James Miller

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4.

The minutes of the preceding day were read by Mr. Keeling.

Mr. G. JACKSON thought that enough of the audacious sayings of Mr. Everett on the preceding evening had not been recorded.

Mr. S. D. WADDY would not have the record too elaborate.

Dr. BUNTING agreed with the last speaker. The original design of taking these minutes was, to put down the resolutions of the Conference, in order that they might be printed; but now they were merely intended to be a record to aid their recollections, and keep up in the mind an idea of the proceedings of the Conference. He was very jealous of a certain journal. "I see a member of this Conference," said the doctor, turning to Mr. W. Griffith, and pointing at him with his finger, but who appeared to continue penning down the words of the doctor as he uttered them; "I see a member of this Conference taking copious notes at my right hand." He intimated that the reports which appeared in public were not authentic; and asserted that they would go for nothing. Men ought not to write books in Conference; for the writers, whatever use they might make of them, would not live for ever, and who could say into whose hands their notes might fall? He had great confidence in one individual, who had been accustomed to take, from year to year, copious notes of the proceedings of Conference. (The doctor was supposed to refer to the Rev. Joseph Fowler.) Why do these men want to write historically? Do they think they have extraordinary talents for writing history? (The matter then dropped.)

Mr. S. D. WADDY wished to know why Mr. Everett's name was passed over without objection in the York District Meeting?

The Chairman of the York District, Mr. A. BELL, replied, that there was no ground of objection to Mr. Everett in his own district: no communication containing any charge had come into his hands from the Chairman of the Manchester District. If there had been, he, as Chairman, would have been found prepared to act faithfully. He had waited until the last day for some instructions or charges.

To an enquiry from Mr. WADDY, whether the case of Mr. Everett's refusal to attend, on the summons of the President, at the Manchester Minor District Meeting, was mentioned in the York District,

Mr. RYAN said, that it was brought before the District; that he had thought a case of so great notoriety should be enquired into under sanction of the law of 1835; and that the members of the York District had not done their duty.

Messrs. DAY and W. SMITH rose together. The latter simply asked

whether any charge against Mr. Everett, or any communication respecting him, had been sent to the Chairman of the York District?

To this there was no response from the Ex-President,

Mr. DAY then gave, at great length, his own proceedings in the York District meeting on the subject. About a month before the District met he conversed about it with the Chairman, whose conversation left the impression that he, Mr. Bell, would originate an inquiry on this matter. When at the District Mr. Everett and Mr. Burdsall's names were called over, Mr. Day asked the Chairman whether there was any objection to them, and on Mr. Bell replying, "No; they have behaved well to me," Mr. Day said, "But there is the Manchester affair." He then urged the reading of the declaratory laws of 1835: but Mr. Smith, the District Secretary, said, "They were not called for," and the Chairman was of opinion that it would answer all necessary ends if Messrs. Burdsall and Everett would state their reasons for not obeying the summons of the President. This they did, pleading that Dr. Newton summoned them as Chairman of the District, not as President of the Conference. Mr. Day could not see the force of this distinction. He was asked for a precedent, but confessed he had none to offer. The whole matter had been misrepresented in a certain journal (the *Wesleyan Times*). Some strong things were said in that District against the proceedings of the Manchester Minor District Meeting. In Mr. Day's opinion, Messrs. Everett and Burdsall had attempted to defeat the ends of justice, and were guilty of contempt of court. He, therefore, had moved a vote of censure on them, but his motion was lost, there being only four hands held up in its favor; the mover and seconder, and Messrs. Ryan and Pemberton.

Mr. REECE, in the case of Mr. Everett, would avoid extremes. Perhaps some preacher who had travelled in York could give evidence of his participation in the "Fly-Sheets."

The PRESIDENT ruled that the Chairman of a district had the right to authorize the attendance of a member of another district. Conference should pass some general declaratory law on this point.

The CHAIRMAN of the DISTRICT inquired of the Ex-President how he (Mr. Bell) was to know that the Manchester Minor District Meeting had not been satisfied with both the brethren, as they sent their reasons for not obeying their summons? To some other remarks, he said it would not do for him, as Chairman of a District, to go on newspaper accounts.

Mr. CROWTHER inquired whether the Chairman of the York District had not said that the summons of the President was informal?

Here Mr. Day gave one answer, and the Chairman a contrary answer: adding that he ought to have had official information from Dr. Newton.

Mr. DAY stated that the letters published in the *Watchman* from Messrs. Everett and Burdsall were read in the District Meeting.

Mr. CUSWORTH regarded this to have been ground sufficient for Mr. Bell to have acted on.

Mr. G. OSBORN affirmed that Dr. Newton was not bound to inform Mr. Bell, who was cognisant of the fact, that two members of his District had disobeyed the President's summons. What were the brethren of the York District about that they passed it over?

Mr. BELL stated that he had the unanimous thanks of the District for his conduct in the chair.

Mr. RYAN again rose, and stated that all the authority of the chairman, the secretary, and the senior members of the district, was employed in favour of Messrs. Everett and Burdsall.

Mr. BELL vindicated himself against the statements of Mr. Ryan, showing that both as Superintendent of the York Circuit, and as Chairman of the York District, he had had a difficult position; that he had to use great care to prevent the people from being driven from the body (cries of "Oh, oh," "Nonsense, nonsense,") and that he had used his best endeavours to preserve the peace of the societies.

Mr. T. WALKER admitted that the Chairman of the Manchester District should have communicated with Mr. Bell.

Dr. BUNTING allowed that it was a mistake on the part of Dr. Newton not to send information to the Chairman of the York District. But the Doctor inquired who was there that never made a mistake? He censured Mr. Bell for interposing his authority, when certain members of the District wished to know why Messrs. Burdsall and Everett did not proceed to Manchester when duly summoned. The Doctor then made some severe remarks on those who contented themselves with saying that they "had no sympathy" with the writers of the "Fly-Sheets." He would not give twopence for those who said they had "no sympathy:" they ought to express the most decided hostility.

Mr. EASTWOOD, a member of the York District, with a view to ward off Dr. Bunting's remarks on "no sympathy," remarked that the "Fly-Sheets" were not the subject of discussion in the District Meeting.

Dr. BUNTING.—The more shame for you.

Mr. EASTWOOD proceeded to state his opinion, that it was questionable whether Messrs. Everett and Burdsall were in the wrong in not obeying the summons of the President. It was his conviction that when any member of one district was summoned to attend a meeting in another district, the chairman of the latter should communicate with the chairman of the former. On this conviction he had acted., The character of Messrs. Everett and Burdsall, as parties having any connexion with the "Fly-Sheets," was never before the District Meeting.

Dr. BUNTING—Then it ought to have been.

Mr. EASTWOOD, in reply to Dr. Bunting, maintained that it was not their fault, then, but that of Dr. Newton, Chairman of the Manchester district, that the question was not taken up by the York district.

Mr. NAYLOR inquired whether Mr. Eastwood had not, in the York meeting, spoken against the law of 1835, and also declared that he would suffer any inconvenience rather than acknowledge its force?

Here the speakers were so many and simultaneous, that it was impossible to catch the name, and still more so the observations of each. But the observations were most contradictory; some affirming that Mr. Eastwood had used these words, others that he had not, and a third class that they had heard that he had.

Mr. A. BELL warned his brethren against paying attention to vague reports.

Mr. NAYLOR withdrew his question.

The PRESIDENT rose. He thought that the conversation should drop until the acts of the York district were before the Conference.

The discussion, however, was continued, Mr. Waddy censuring district meetings for the practice that was growing of their "getting out of fighting out our principles," and leaving to Conference all the responsibility of deciding difficult points.

The EX-PRESIDENT inquired whether it was lawful to discuss in a district meeting the propriety of any one of our rules?

Mr. A. BELL again declared that he had not allowed the discussion of

the law of 1835 in his district meeting, adding, "If you listen to reports I cannot engage to defend myself. I never allowed anything of the kind."

Mr. SMITH, the District Secretary, and Mr. EASTWOOD, both made a similar affirmation. Some others affirmed the contrary.

Mr. SMITH, evidently labouring under deep emotion, persisted, amid cries of "No," to declare that "the York district was not well used."

The PRESIDENT endeavoured to obtain a hearing for Mr. Smith, who observed that he no sooner began to speak than brethren clamoured him down.

Dr. BUNTING said the district meeting should have inquired why two men in it had interfered with the carrying on of the proceedings of justice in another district.

Mr. DAY then admitted that the law of 1835 had not been attacked in the district meeting.

On this Dr. BUNTING, with much severity, asked, "What then, Mr. Day, do you complain of?" And the discussion at once fell to the ground by the President declaring that it was time to terminate it.

The case of Messrs. Burdsall and Everett was again referred to.

The PRESIDENT proposed deferring decision to the following Monday morning. It had become the duty of the Conference to adjudicate upon their refusal to reply to certain questions on the previous evening. It was of great importance to preserve the purity of the Conference, and the unity of the body. Many eyes were on the Conference at this time. All appearance of acting with precipitation or under excitement should be avoided. He should nominate a committee to report upon the case. It was to consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference, and all the Ex-Presidents present, because of the confidence which the Conference had already reposed in them; of the chairmen of four remote and important districts, Messrs. Burt, G. Taylor, Young, and Davies; and of three members of the Manchester minor district meeting, because they had been painfully mixed up with the affair from the beginning, Messrs. Naylor, Crowther, and Osborn. In this way all appearance of acting from excited feeling would be avoided, and in the estimation of the public that were looking on, all would be done in calmness and in kindness.

Mr. DUNN said that the Manchester men were too much mixed up with the affair for them fairly to be on this Committee.

Dr. BUNTING denied that this was a solid objection.

Mr. DUNN continued to protest against Messrs. Naylor, Crowther, and especially George Osborn, being on this Committee, as they had already condemned them in the Minor District Meeting for contumacy.

Dr. BUNTING maintained that Mr. Dunn's objection did not apply, as the Committee would only have to report upon what had taken place the previous evening, when Messrs. Burdsall and Everett refused to answer the question, "Are you the writer or author of the 'Fly-Sheets?'"

Mr. NAYLOR said, it would be a favour to be off that committee, but if the Conference appointed him, he would not shrink from his duty.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING considered the President's reason for putting these three brethren on the committee the strongest possible reason for keeping them out of it—"painfully mixed up with the 'Fly-Sheet' affair from the beginning." Why, these three men "must have a certain bias of mind" on the matter. It will be thought by impartial men a partial deed, if these three be on it, and he therefore begged to move that they be not on it.

*Dr. BUNTING—And I beg to oppose the motion. There must be but
the President here.*

To this Mr. W. M. BUNTING rejoined: "The President put this nomination, and I have the right to support or oppose it."

This produced great confusion and outcries, on which Dr. BUNTING exclaimed, "Don't interrupt me; hear me, and then cry 'mackerel,' 'old clothes,' or what else you please."

It was then determined that these members of the Minor District Meeting should be on this committee.

SPEECH OF MR. OSBORN.

When the Committee on Messrs. Everett and Bursdall's case had been appointed

The Rev. G. OSBORN was called upon from the chair. He stated, in effect, that he accepted the appointment to serve on the last-named Committee, simply on the ground of obedience. It was a painful duty, but painful duties must be discharged as well as pleasant ones. Addressing himself then to the immediate subject of which he had given notice, he went on to state, that, two years ago, he had felt it to be his duty to bring the "Fly Sheets" under the notice of the Conference; and to obtain from that body a decision against them, grounded mainly, if not exclusively, upon their immoral character, and the danger which accrued to the interests of religion from their unchecked circulation. The Conference distinctly, and all but unanimously, declared its conviction of their sinful character; and he, at that time, proceeded to argue, that, if sorry for the sin which had been laid to their charge, the brethren should clear themselves of it. He, therefore, proposed a Declaration, the effect of which would be, to give members of the Conference an opportunity to purge themselves from all suspicion of participation in this sin, and to assure one another that mutual confidence might still be safely exercised. That Declaration had, he was happy to say, received the signatures of more than 1,100 Ministers;—and he now laid it upon the table, and resigned, into the hands of the Conference, the permission which they kindly gave him, two years ago, to put it into circulation. In doing this, he could not conceal the emotions, in which he indulged, of gratitude to God, and of gratitude to his brethren. It was well known, that this course of proceeding had subjected him to much hostile remark. This opposition he had endured had thrown him back upon his principles. He had been compelled to think seriously and frequently, and was more than ever satisfied that he was right. For, what was the point at issue? It was whether Methodism could exist, if the Conference was divided into two parties, a Government Party and an Opposition Party. To Methodism, under God, he owed everything. But for Methodism, in all probability, his father would have lived and died unconverted—he himself might have followed in the steps of his father—and his children in *his* steps; but Methodism had been the instrument of the conversion of his father, of his own conversion, and of the conversion of his children; and he was desirous that the system from which he had derived so many benefits, for time and eternity, should be perpetuated and extended. Thus the question became a vital one. If the Conference was to be divided into two parties, Methodism—the system under which he had derived so many benefits, all must come to an end. "But why," it was asked, "should there not be two parties in the Conference, as well as in the House of Commons, where both claimed to be equally loyal to the Constitution, however they might be divided upon questions of administration?" To this question he replied, that no

political analogy could hold good in the present case. Political parties were based entirely on political considerations. It mattered little to Lord John Russell who sat beside him, or behind him, so that he concurred in his general views of public policy, and would support them with his vote. Agreement of opinion in public matters was, with a political party, "the one thing needful." But theirs was a Confederation based primarily and necessarily, upon personal and private, not upon public considerations. "You begin, Sir," (said Mr. Osborn, addressing the President,) "with these questions—'Have you peace with God?'—'Do you expect to be saved from sin in this life?' and if these questions are not answered, to your satisfaction, you at once dismiss the candidate for admission into your Ministry. This principle obtains throughout our system. Every Class-leader, every Local Preacher, is subject to the same personal examination, as to his religious experience and character; and, if the Conference will allow men, who have not this personal experience of religion, to enter its ranks, its vocation is at an end. It is our union, as believers in Christ, which lies at the foundation of our confederal union, and of all our public acts and proceedings." Mr. Osborn then continued—The Church of England was sometimes quoted as an example to them, of a body in which the widest difference of sentiment was allowed; and it was asked, by superficial thinkers, "Why should there not be two parties in the Methodist Conference, differing in their views of public policy, as there are two parties in the Church of England?" To this he replied,—1. Neither of these parties had the ruling power; and, where men could do nothing, they might be allowed to talk freely. The rule rested exclusively with the Bishops. But the Conference was a Presbyterian Body; they had no Bishops; they appointed their own executive; and that consideration was of itself sufficient to break down any argument based upon an analogy with the Church of England. This, however, was not the only consideration. It must be borne in mind, 2ndly, that the differing parties in the Establishment were all equally secure of provision for themselves and their Church: they were not a voluntary community. But Methodism depended solely upon the voluntary liberality of its friends; and if the party, distrusting the executive, and teaching others to distrust it, should obtain extensive influence, and confidence should be destroyed, all support from voluntary sources must fail. The divisions of the Conference would be reflected and reproduced in the various parts of the kingdom; and our "United Societies" would be united no longer. This was, therefore, a vital question. An organized opposition would eat out the vitals of the system, not merely by its direct operation upon the finances, but by its reflex operation upon the spirit and temper of the brethren. The tactics of party could never be carried out in harmony with the true spirit of the Christian religion. He had thus endeavoured to show, that the principle involved in this affair of the Declaration was vital to the existence and prosperity of Methodism. But it was asked,—Do you propose to suppress all discussion? Is the Conference to be gagged? He answered,—nothing was further from his thoughts, and, he might venture to add, from his practice. Every one who had attended the Conference for the last few years must be well aware, that he had, himself, on several occasions, taken different views from those of the executive, and that he had in more than one instance, felt it to be his duty to urge his views strongly, and to press his motions to a division.

On these occasions he had been beaten; and he liked to know when he was beaten. Having been beaten, in fair discussion, he thought it alike his duty and his wisdom to submit, and not to keep up an agitation after the Conference had closed. It was wholly untrue to say that he was an enemy to free discussion. What he opposed was, agitation carried on by the minority, at improper times, and by unconstitutional means. And he knew that the "Executive," as they were called, were no more opposed to free and full discussion, at a proper time, than he was himself. Indeed, they would not thank any one for his support, unless they believed that he could and would oppose them when he thought it right to do so. Some persons had said that the Declaration was unprecedented; but this only showed their ignorance. Whatever they had read, it was clear they had never read the First Volume of the "Minutes of Conference,"—for that volume contained much information on this point. This was, in fact, the *Fifth* Declaration which had been circulated among the Preachers for their signature; and in the First Volume of the Minutes it would be found that the First Declaration, or, as it was then called, "*Agreement*," was kept for some years before the Brethren; and that Mr. Wesley was in the habit of asking, year by year, in the Conference,—“What Preachers have signed the Agreement?” He had, therefore, perpetrated no novelty; and, in resigning his permission into the hands of the Conference, he thought it would become them to express an opinion, that the Brethren who had signed the Declaration had acted wisely and well. He should leave the Conference to take its own course in reference to those who had neither signed the Declaration, nor in any other way given their brethren reason to confide in them touching these matters. He had been called “The Accuser of the Brethren.” That title had been applied to him by a brother, though it was, in Scripture and in the usage of divines, considered as appropriate only to the Prince of the Devils. He did not shrink from calumny and reproach: any one was welcome, so far as he was concerned, to think and say of him, personally, whatever he deemed proper. But on a public question, it was not desirable that any individual should be called upon to sustain a position which might be more properly taken by the Conference itself; and he, therefore, trusted, that the Conference would discharge its duty in reference to those brethren who had signed the Declaration, and to the Societies at large, by making inquiry into the views and feelings of those who had neither signed the Declaration, nor, in any other way, afforded to their brethren a pledge of confidence. [This address produced, it has been said, quite an electric effect. It was listened to with great eagerness, and the speaker was frequently interrupted with cheers and other expressions of concurrence and approbation. Mr. Osborn sat down amidst volleys of applause, which were three times distinctly repeated.]

It was then determined to give to the brethren present, who had not signed, an opportunity to declare themselves *viva voce*; and much of the remainder of the sitting was occupied with such explanations.

A resolution, approving of the Declaration, and directing it to be printed in the Minutes, and also conveying the thanks of Conference to Mr. Osborn, was carried with two dissentients.

MR. GEORGE'S CASE.

As soon as Mr. Osborn had resigned the “Declaration” into the hands of the President,

Mr. GEORGE rose and said, that, without impugning the motives of Mr. Osborn, he could not thank him for the position in which Mr. O. had placed him. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) Mr. Osborn had done great disservice to Methodism. (Vociferous cries of "No, no.") [It was some time before Mr. George could proceed, and not until the President had interposed, saying, with great emphasis, "Hear and judge."] He had not refused to sign from want of confidence in the fathers of the Connexion. [Again was Mr. George interrupted, and obliged to wait until, a second time, by the interposition of the chair, he obtained a hearing.] Mr. Osborn had expressed his attachment to Methodism: so would he. For twenty-five years he had been engaged in its ministry, abroad and at home, and was ready to devote his whole life to its interests. (Cries of "Sign the Declaration; we do not want to hear your attachment to Methodism," &c.) In refusing to sign the Declaration he stood upon a point of conscience and of liberty. He was not aware of any authority found in the New Testament, or in the usages of the country that required him to submit to this test. [Here the confusion was very great, and led the President to say that he was "sorry for this interruption."] He had not even acknowledged the receipt of the Declaration. It came to him, as far as he knew, without any authority. He did not even know two of the parties who issued it, and was but little acquainted with Mr. Osborn, the third. He, therefore, did not even acknowledge it, because in his opinion it wanted authority. Had it been issued with the names of the President and Secretary of the Conference, then, whether he had signed the Declaration or not, he should have thought it necessary, from respect to the Conference, to have acknowledged its receipt. He thought it exceedingly officious in Mr. Osborn to issue the Declaration a second time. (Loud cries.) He did not thank Mr. Osborn for the course he had taken. (Cries of "I dare say not," &c.) "I wish him to exemplify the law of charity which thinketh no evil." In his opinion, persons of age, of experience, and of temper, should have been employed, if it were deemed necessary to issue a declaration.

Here the PRESIDENT rose and said: Mr. George was reflecting severely upon the Conference. He would allow no reflection to be made upon that venerable assembly.

Mr. GEORGE explained that he meant no reflection upon the Conference; he was merely stating his opinion of the fitness of Mr. Osborn.

The PRESIDENT affirmed that it was a reflection upon the Conference, and he should not allow Mr. George to proceed in that course of remark; but he (the President) continued—"Are you going to set yourself right with the Conference? Mr. Osborn has done important service to Methodism. He has conferred on it great benefit and blessing."

Mr. GEORGE said that if he had unwittingly used any improper expression he retracted it, and then proceeded to say that in his opinion the course adopted by issuing the Declaration would not secure peace.

Here the President, with considerable excitement, again interposed, declaring that this was "another reflection upon the Conference."

Mr. DUNN rose to order, and said, "Mr. George ought not to be thus interrupted."

The PRESIDENT: Mr. George must be interrupted when he is out of order. He (the President) had given Mr. George the opportunity to speak because he thought that he (Mr. George) was "about to clear himself with his brethren." The President then asked Mr. George

whether he had "any participation in the 'Fly-Sheets.'" (Loud cries.)

Mr. GEORGE said he found himself unexpectedly in a very awkward position.

The PRESIDENT said that having forced himself into it he must now answer the question.

Mr. GEORGE said that he had reasons for declining; and would, with permission of the Conference, assign them. (Loud cries from every part of the Conference—"Answer the question 'Yes' or 'No!' we don't want your reasons," &c.)

Mr. GEORGE appeared greatly embarrassed by the conduct which his remarks had occasioned. In the midst of the confusion the President again put the question, observing, "If you are not a guilty person, it is easy to say so."

Mr. GEORGE was proceeding to state he would give his reasons for not replying to the question in a simple "yes" or "no," when the chair told him that he was not thus to "evade the question." Many voices were heard shouting, "Answer the question!" to all which Mr. George replied, "I cannot give up my personal liberty. I cannot act in opposition to my conscience." The cries of those who were for a categorical answer continuing,

Mr. BEECH rose and expressed a wish that the Conference would leave the putting of any questions in the hands of the President alone.

Mr. GEORGE, on a renewal of the question, said an attempt was made to coerce him.

The PRESIDENT: "If you affect independence, become an Independent altogether."

Loud cries of "Question" induced Mr. GEORGE to say that he was "not prepared to give a direct answer to the question."

Here so many addressed the President at once, that it was difficult to say who spoke or what was said.

Dr. DUNN was seen in vain attempting to gain a hearing.

Dr. BUNTING was at length heard to say, that "the Conference had better leave the matter in the hands of the President."

Order being again restored, Mr. WADDY said, that this refusal to answer inquiries goes to the foundation of our economy. If the Conference allowed Mr. George, or any one else, to decline answering this question, he should decline answering all the ordinary questions at the next District meeting. As to the matter of conscience, Mr. George should have settled the question of conscience before he entered into the Connection. He approved of the course taken by Mr. Osborn, though he could not agree with that part of his speech in which he is reported to have said that he would do as he pleased.

Mr. SCOTT rose to put Mr. Waddy right, and to correct an error of the reporters. Mr. Osborn had added the words, "where Christianity or Methodism had not imposed any restraint." Mr. Scott proceeded to say that we "must either require answers to such questions when proposed, or we must give up Methodism." (Loud cries of "We won't give it up," followed by cheers.)

Mr. DUNN and Mr. LEAROLD rose as the President rose, and made an attempt to be heard, but sat down.

Dr. BUNTING observed that everybody should give up his claim to be heard when the President desired to address the Conference.

Mr. GEORGE persisted in declining to give a direct answer. He was put in the same class as Messrs. Burdall and Everett.

The SECRETARY proposed three resolutions, expressive of approbation of Mr. Osborn's conduct, of the union subsisting between the preachers, and of the propriety of placing the declaration and the signatures on the journals, and printing them in the minutes.

They were carried unanimously, except that against the first, Messrs. Fielden, Dunn, and Griffith held up their hands; and against the second and third, Messrs. Dunn and Griffith only. To a laugh raised by the announcement on the third occasion, Mr. Dunn replied, "You may laugh, but I will do my duty."

Messrs. T. H. Walker, Thomas Rowland, and Amos Learoyd then voluntarily declared that though they had not signed the declaration, they knew nothing of the author or authors, and had no sympathy with, but held in abhorrence, the "Fly-Sheets." Their verbal declaration was accepted by the Conference as tantamount to signing.

REPORTING.

In consequence of Dr. Bunting having remarked that there was one present busy taking notes, which would probably appear in a certain paper,

Mr. DUNCAN proposed a resolution to the effect that all persons reporting for publications should signify their intention of so doing, and stated that his object was not to prevent the publication of discussions, nor even to restrict it,—that the only restraint he wished to impose was the consciousness of their own responsibility for what might appear in the publications with which they might communicate. Excepting what might concern either private or ministerial character, his opinion was that little transpires in the Conference which it is either necessary or desirable to conceal.

Dr. BUNTING remarked that the question of reporting was beset with difficulties. Mr. Duncan had better withdraw his motion. It would be hazardous to draw up a resolution on so important a subject from an incidental debate. It would be better to receive the report of an adequate committee who should take the subject into their most careful consideration.

Some of the preachers appeared to think that if reporting could not be prevented, it would be well to have an authorized reporter, who should be responsible to Conference for his reports.

Dr. BUNTING noticed that there was a material difference between reporting for the *Watchman* and for the *Wesleyan Times*. It was a wrong done to the *Watchman* to put it into the same category as the *Wesleyan Times*. The general tone of the former was conservative of Methodism, but the latter was hostile to Methodism.

SPEECH OF MR. J. W. THOMAS.

In the course of the discussion on Saturday,

The Rev. JOHN W. THOMAS said, that, whatever may have been the intention of those persons who penned the "Fly-Sheets," he did not consider their mischief to be unmitigated. "There is some spirit of goodness in things evil," and whatever else those writers had done, their attempts to divide us had increased our unity, and would tend to increase it still more. He was ashamed that so much time and attention had been devoted to those miserable productions; and he supposed that the writers were vain of the sensation they had created. But this was a very vulgar vanity. It was in the power of the meanest and most con-

temptible to make a stir: the vagabond who fires a pistol at the Queen becomes the subject of conversation to an empire. It was said to the unfaithful servant, "Out of thy own mouth will I condemn thee." Perhaps the Conference would like to hear what the authors of the "Fly-Sheets," or "some of them," say on the subject of anonymous calumnies. "When anonymous writings assail private character, there can be, except under extraordinary circumstances, no justification of the secret mode of writing. Every lover of fair play—every man possessed of honour, must set his face against this *assassination of character in the dark*." This was from a *Vindication* of the "Fly-Sheets," p. 125! Again, "Unfortunately *there are* a few matters in the 'Fly-Sheets' that rather belong to private life than to the public affairs of Methodism. This was their weakness. This gives their enemies power. This vulnerable point is perpetually alluded to, like a minute portion of an intense bitter diffusing its property throughout a large volume of otherwise useful liquid," pp. 126-7. Is this vindication, or confession? Professedly, it is the former; but, in reality, it is confession without repentance: and the authors stand self-convicted of having infused into the well of truth the deadly poison of falsehood. Dr. Beaumont had put a question the other day to Dr. Hannah, respecting his recommendation of "Remarks on the 'Fly-Sheets,' by Vates." He (Mr. Thomas) did not exactly understand whether the ground he took in putting it was the Declaratory Law of 1835, or the rule of 1777. He had a *right* to put the question; only let him not blame others for the same thing. For, without written enactments or authorities, it was his opinion, that in thus taking sureties one of another, we are justified on the ground of self-defence and public safety, and by the immemorial law of reason, which is the standard and arbiter of law itself. He would now make an avowal respecting "Remarks on the 'Fly-Sheets.'" The secret was so small it was not worth keeping. Dr. Beaumont knew, some months ago, as well as he did, who Vates was; and so did Mr. Kay. But if it would do them any pleasure, he took the opportunity of saying, "I am Vates!" Mr. Dunn had told him that he (Mr. Dunn) had killed Vates four months ago—(laughter)—but *here he is!* Whatever were Mr. Dunn's intentions, he certainly had not been guilty of actual Vaticide! But if he *will* go on endeavouring to kill the prophets and slay the poets, he must employ other weapons of better edge and temper. And here he could not withhold an expression of surprise at the sensitiveness of these brethren, as contrasted with their former apathy. While for four years the "Fly-Sheets" were lauding *them* to the skies, and calumniating their fathers and brethren, they looked on with the most magnanimous and philosophic indifference. The "Fly-Sheets," for instance, made them tower into the firmament, like intellectual Alps, and gave to Dr. Beaumont "an avalanche power," a rather formidable thing to grapple with! (Laughter.) But as soon as it was discovered that the press was open for *defence* as well as for attack, they were all in commotion. "*Tangit montes et fumigant;*" as the Psalm says—"He toucheth the mountains and they smoke!" Dr. Beaumont, whom he had always respected, not only as a Christian Minister and brother, but as a really liberal gentleman—though he (Mr. Thomas) did not agree with him in *all* his liberal opinions—very liberally voted in the Book Committee for the suppression of his (Mr. Thomas's) book! Yes, he wished to prohibit the sale of his flimsy, trumpery pamphlet, as the *Wesleyan Times* called it! He would not let it be read, and endeavoured to gag a free press and bring it into bondage.

But the spark of truth, which he sought to trample out, flew up into his face, nevertheless. (Laughter.) He (Dr. Beaumont) had also denounced the pamphlet of Vates to the Conference, as "calumnious, slanderous, and murderous." He (Mr. Thomas) was not aware that there had been any blood shed, though there had been much ink shed; and if there had been any slaughter of character, it certainly was, on his part, without malice aforethought; and any jury would bring it in chance medley, or justifiable homicide. (A laugh.) As to the statements in the remarks which referred to Dr. Beaumont, most of them were statements of what was said in the open Conferences. If his book had a head and a tail, he supposed the sting was in its tail: there was one anecdote in a note at the bottom of the last page; and if Dr. Beaumont wished for the authority on which it was given, he was perfectly willing to produce it. "And here, as Dr. Beaumont has put a question respecting my pamphlet to Dr. Hannah (said the speaker), I hope he will allow me to put a question to him:—Is he connected with the *Wesleyan Times*, as one of its Editors?" The grounds of the opinion that he was so, he (Mr. T.) was also ready to furnish, if requested. In answer to the complaint of Mr. Kay, who had also questioned Dr. Hannah on the subject of Vates, he had to state, that the same complaint had been previously made by him in the *Wesleyan Times*; but his (Mr. T.'s) reply had been refused admission by the Editor of that paper, so that he was obliged to print it at his own expense and risk.—Mr. Thomas read an extract from his printed reply to Mr. Kay, contained in "An Appendix to Remarks on the Fly-Sheets," defending the correctness of two passages which Mr. Kay had declared to be "untrue," and "a libel on the Missionary character."

"The first passage is at p. 11 of 'Remarks.' The subject of it is the Resolution of the Conference of 1847. That resolution condemned those anonymous publications which had been circulated 'bearing no name of authors or printers,' &c. It declares the unabated confidence of the Conference in 'the brethren thus wickedly and slanderously attacked.' This resolution was CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF THE WHOLE CONFERENCE, with the exception of two or three, who voted against it. A note is appended which commences thus:—'Dr. Beaumont, S. Dunn, and S. Kay, *if my memory does not err.*' Whether Mr. Kay voted against the resolution or not, *my statement is perfectly correct.* His vote is alluded to *doubtfully and hypothetically*: I only professed to give *my impression*, when, from the nature of the case, I could not be certain. Had I been sure that *only two voted against* the resolution, that fact would have *strengthened my argument*, which was to show that the Conference was all but unanimous in condemning the 'Fly-Sheets,' and that even the 'two or three' brethren who voted against the resolution which condemned those documents, did what really amounted to an *approval of its object.*

"Such is Mr. Kay's first attack on the accuracy of my 'Remarks.' 'This, however,' he observes, 'is but a trifle compared with what follows. At p. 19 it is insinuated, and more than insinuated, that some "Returned Missionary" was accessory to the authorship of the first "Fly-Sheet,"' &c. Here Mr. Kay is guilty of the greatest possible disingenuity. The passage of which he complains is A QUOTATION FROM THE 'FLY-SHEETS!' This Mr. Kay has given the reader no hint of! *The 'Fly-Sheets' assert what Mr. Kay says I insinuate!* I have even *expressed my doubt of the correctness of the assertion*, and have stated a

reason for my doubt. The whole passage is as follows:—"A returned Missionary wrote No. 1."—"Fly-Sheets, No. 3, p. 37. It seems to me not at all improbable that a returned Missionary should be accessory to the authorship, yet from all I have seen and heard of the individual supposed to be alluded to, I should hardly think he took the initiative, except as the tool of others; nor that he possesses the literary talent necessary to constitute him calumniator-in-chief."—*Remarks on the 'Fly-Sheets,'* p. 19. In allusion to this passage, Mr. Kay, without disclaiming the authorship on *his own* account (as I understand him), undertakes to answer for all his brethren; and as their self-appointed representative, 'in the name of every returned Missionary in the Connexion,' calls upon me to 'name the man,' &c. &c. Upon this extraordinary passage, I ask—1st. Does Mr. Kay think *himself* the individual alluded to? 2. If so, what are his *reasons* for so thinking? 3. If *he* wrote No. 1, of course, he *knows* that *no other* person did it; otherwise how can he answer for *all* the other returned Missionaries in the land? 4. Can he mean that he *does* possess the literary talent necessary to constitute him calumniator-in-chief? 5. How is it that now, *for the first time*, he has expressed resentment at the assertion, 'A returned Missionary wrote No. 1?' After opposing as un-English and inquisitorial, all attempts to discover the authors of the 'Fly-Sheets,' by whom this 'opinion' was published some *years* since, how is it that he is now so anxious to discover, and ready to censure, the author of the 'Remarks,' because he has *merely quoted it*? 6. What is there, in the two passages of the 'Remarks' complained of, that can give just ground of offence to Mr. Kay, *if he has no sympathy with the 'Fly-Sheets,' and had no participation in their authorship?*"

Previously to making this attack in the *Wesleyan Times*, Mr. Kay had written to him, peremptorily demanding to know if he (Mr. T.) was the author of "Remarks;" but without any reason assigned for the inquiry, or any object stated. To this he had replied, by expressing his surprise at so inquisitorial a process from Mr. Kay above all men—(a laugh); at the same time stating, that if it were an understanding among the brethren, that all questions of authorship should be answered, or if the Conference should decide that this was one that ought to be answered by him, he would give it a prompt and immediate reply. He now voluntarily laid down the mask at Mr. Kay's feet, who would not find it much of a trophy! He (Mr. Kay) had talked of *him* as a man in a mask! Where was his virtuous indignation against men in masks two years ago, when in a mixed company, he declaimed in favour of the "Fly-Sheet" statements, and he (Mr. T.) had to take up the argument against them? He (Mr. Kay) might be one of the noble exceptions referred to in the "Fly-Sheets:" it was understood that he had been knighted in Caffraria, and he supposed it was on that account he came forward so chivalrously in defence of the "Fly-Sheet" Bushmen. (A laugh.) The tactics of demagogues were nearly the same in all ages. Mr. Osborn had referred to the writings of Mr. Kilham. He would refer to an older controversy—that of Korah and his company. They said to Moses and Aaron—"Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the Lord's people are holy every one of them, and the Lord is among them; wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" And Dathan and Abiram said, "Is it not enough that thou hast brought us into the wilderness—except thou make thyself altogether a king? Wilt thou put out the eyes of these men?" This was completely "Fly-

Sheet" language. And it was worthy of remark, that the meekest and holiest of men, the anointed of the Lord, the disinterested and heroic deliverer of Israel, could not escape the charge of selfishness, usurpation, and the deep and tortuous policy of a tyrant! But "the glory of the Lord appeared above the tabernacle;" and so it had been with us during the year and during the present Conference. He concluded—"I rejoice in the spirit of unity and of unanimity which has prevailed in our sittings; and I do not wonder that our unanimity has disturbed the equanimity of our adversaries. An envenomed arrow has been aimed at me in the last publication of the *Wesleyan Times*; but I laid my account with that: and I regard it as one of the felicities of my life, that I was the first to buckle on the controversial armour, and measure lances with our intestine foe, that I have thus assisted to turn the battle to the gate, and contributed (in however humble a degree) to achieve the victory which is now about to be completed." (During the delivery of his address, Mr. Thomas was repeatedly interrupted by the cheers of the Conference, and sat down amidst great applause.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 6.

MR. GRIFFITH'S CASE.

At the commencement of the morning sitting, Mr. J. W. THOMAS stated that he wished to put a question to Mr. Griffith, in consequence of what had occurred on Saturday, with a view to ascertain whether that minister reported for the *Wesleyan Times*, which Mr. Thomas said was only another name for the "Fly-Sheets."

The PRESIDENT said it was a proper question, and should be put at the proper time. The report of the Committee on Messrs. Everett and Burdsall's case must be considered before any other business was entered on.

Accordingly, on their report being received, Mr. Griffith was called from his place and put to the question.

The PRESIDENT: In the name and in the behalf of the Conference, I ask you, are you taking notes of the proceedings of the Conference?

Mr. GRIFFITH: I am; and I presume that many of the members of the Conference are doing the same.

The PRESIDENT: Are you taking notes for the purpose of reporting the proceedings of this Conference to the *Wesleyan Times*?

Mr. GRIFFITH: To this question I answer distinctly, No. I am taking notes for the purpose of aiding my recollection of the proceedings of this momentous Conference.

The PRESIDENT: Have you this year, or in any former years, reported the proceedings of this Conference to the *Wesleyan* or the *Wesleyan Times* newspaper?

Mr. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, there must be some limit to these interrogatories. If you are to go back to former years, there is no knowing where the inquiries which you are instituting will end.

Here were cries of "Question, question!" "Answer the question!" "No evasion!" On this Mr. GRIFFITH appealed to the chair, stating that he put himself under its protection; that he would reply to the questions put to him from the chair, and hoped to have none of those interruptions, which to any man, but especially to one cited before the Conference, were necessarily confusing. He assured the President that whatever replies he gave they should not be evasive. They should be

open, honest, and straightforward. He was not going to evade a single question.

The PRESIDENT then asked: Have you, during this Conference, reported any of its proceedings to the *Wesleyan Times*?

Mr. GRIFFITH here paused, and, after silence had been maintained for some little time, replied—"If the Conference will allow me, I should like to take time for considering what answer I shall give to this question."

The PRESIDENT said that the request was a reasonable one, and the Conference would grant it. At the evening sitting the question would be again put, and an answer expected.

At the evening sitting Mr. GRIFFITH replied to the question.—"I have; and every member of this Conference must know that there are ministers present who have reported for the *Watchman* the proceedings of this Conference."

Here Mr. DUNN cried out:—"And so have I!" (that is, communicated to the *Wesleyan Times*.)

The PRESIDENT stated that the inquiry was not respecting reporting for the *Watchman*, but for the *Wesleyan Times*.

Mr. GRIFFITH replied that if members of the body were allowed to report for the *Watchman*, he claimed an equal right to report for the *Wesleyan Times*.

Mr. BUNTING said that Mr. Griffith must see that the cases were not parallel: the *Watchman* was altogether conservative of Methodism; the *Wesleyan Times* as thoroughly hostile to it.

Mr. GRIFFITH replied: "This is matter of opinion. In my opinion the *Wesleyan Times* is as strongly attached to Wesleyan Methodism as the *Watchman*, and is much better serving its interests."

Dr. BUNTING then said that the *Wesleyan Times* had made very severe and calumnious attacks upon members of the Conference, including even its President.

Mr. GRIFFITH responded, that the *Watchman* had made very severe and calumnious attacks upon members of the Conference, including even the ex-Secretary, Mr. Fowler.

Mr. Griffith was told that he could bring forward the subject of reporting for the *Watchman* at a subsequent period, if he pleased, and was entreated to separate the two questions, and confine his replies to the *Wesleyan Times*. He, however, firmly, though respectfully, persevered in the course he had taken.

A debate then ensued, in which Drs. Bunting and Newton, Messrs. Macdonald, Barton, Rule, E. Walker, W. Smith, Rigg, S. D. Waddy, and Scott took part, the last of whom read some recent articles from the *Wesleyan Times* on the conduct of the President, and of Mr. Osborn in particular, and reprobated the paper in the strongest terms.

Dr. Beaumont, and Messrs. Dunn and Griffith, strongly censured the *Watchman*, which had endorsed and made its own all the calumnies of the "Papers on Wesleyan Matters."

A resolution, strongly worded, condemnatory of the *Wesleyan Times*, and reflecting on the preachers who support or countenance it, was then carried almost unanimously, there being only two hands—Messrs. Dunn and Griffith—held up against it.

The PRESIDENT then resumed his interrogations:—"Mr. Griffith, the Conference has, by an almost unanimous vote, condemned the *Wesleyan Times* newspaper; and expressed its opinion of any minister who shall

countenance it. In the name, then, and in behalf of this Conference, will you engage not to report to the *Wesleyan Times*?"

Mr. GRIFFITH: I will pledge myself not to communicate to the *Wesleyan Times* when every member of this Conference pledges himself not to communicate to the *Watchman*.

Other questions were proposed, to which he replied, that till Conference prohibited communication to the *Watchman*, he could not engage to cease communication with the *Wesleyan Times*; that if the Conference would aid him in putting down the one, he would aid the Conference in putting down the other; that if others would abandon the *Watchman*, he would abandon the *Wesleyan Times*. Further than this he would not go.

The question was then put to him, "Are you, or are you not, the author of the "Fly-Sheets?"

He said, that, before giving a reply to any question, he wished to know whether the Secretary would read the series of questions which he held in his hand?

The PRESIDENT ruled that he must answer that question first, as subsequent questions would depend on the answers given.

The question being again put, and Mr. Griffith stating that two years ago he declined signing the "Declaration,"

The PRESIDENT said that he was not called to sign the "Declaration" but to give a verbal disavowal of the authorship of the "Fly-Sheets."

Mr. GRIFFITH stated that the one was tantamount to the other, and that the reasons which influenced him two years ago were as strong now.

The question was again put, and he was required to give his answer directly—"yes" or "no;" to which he replied, that he would give his reasons for not giving a mere answer of "yes" or "no."

That was not allowed him. He then said nineteen reasons had been published, and he had more than a dozen additional ones, which the proceedings of the present Conference had suggested. He declined to answer the question at all, since the Conference would not hear the grounds on which he took his stand.

He was not interrupted by the President or the Conference generally, except by Mr. John Wesley Thomas, and Mr. John Rattenbury; to the former of whom Mr. Griffith replied, but immediately corrected himself by saying, "Mr. President, I most sincerely regret that I have done you the disrespect to condescend to notice the unseemly interruption of Mr. J. W. Thomas." To Mr. Rattenbury, Dr. Beaumont addressed some pointed remarks.

The Rev. STEPHEN KAY wished to ask through the chair a question of Mr. Wesley Thomas. What authority had he for saying a returned Missionary wrote No. 1 of the "Fly-Sheets?" He spoke on behalf of all the returned missionaries.

The Rev. P. DUNCAN rose to order; and as a returned missionary begged Mr. Kay to speak for himself and not for him. Several other returned missionaries expressed themselves to the same effect.

Mr. KAY continued, and vehemently denounced the speech of Mr. Thomas on Saturday last. He emphatically disavowed all connection with the authorship of the "Fly-Sheets." (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. W. THOMAS said the words in "Remarks on the 'Fly-Sheets,'" of which Mr. Kay complained, are a quotation from the "Fly-Sheets."—"A returned missionary wrote No. 1." He had expressed his *doubt as to their correctness*. He knew of no returned missionary who

had anything to do with the authorship, and he was glad that Mr. Kay had tried on the cap, and found it not to fit him. (A laugh.)

EXPULSION OF MR. EVERETT.

The SECRETARY read the resolutions of the Committee on the case of Messrs. Everett and Burdsall, recommending the expulsion of Mr. Everett, and that Mr. Burdsall in consideration of his general character, and his age and the infirmities which he had pleaded, be admonished, and all further proceedings against him dropped.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT, and the Rev. J. RATTENBURY, spoke in support of the motion.

The Rev. J. W. THOMAS said there is a law antecedent to all written laws. The defence of the State and the maintenance of the public safety had been regarded as the supreme law. It had been acted upon in the freest Commonwealths. When Cicero appealed to it, Catiline fled, and the Republic was saved. The laws of Moses required a solemn purgation of the suspected, Deut. xxi. 1-9; and the laws of Alfred made Englishmen responsible to each other. Suppose a member of our House of Commons should be universally suspected of libelling another member, or the house, and on being required to avow or disavow the authorship should refuse to do so; what would be the result? In the case of Mr. Everett, for whom he had had great respect, and in whose character there was much that he admired, he would gladly have adopted a more lenient course had it been consistent with the safety of the Connexion; but, with pain and reluctance, he should feel it his duty to vote for the motion.

Dr. BEAUMONT disclaimed all connection with the "Fly-Sheets."

The Rev. P. DUNCAN said, in allusion to a remark of Dr. Beaumont, Mr. Fowler never shrunk from declaring that he had no connection with the "Fly-Sheets." Mr. Fowler had no objection to the examinations under the declaratory law of 1835, which he believed to be also authorized by the New Testament, and therefore was "God's way." They ought likewise not to forget that Mr. Fowler was the first person who stood up in the Conference of 1847, and signified that he had no connection with the "Fly-Sheets," and avowed his disapprobation of them. This he considered sufficient; and whether in that opinion he was right or wrong, such was the fact.

The Rev. J. CUSWORTH, in allusion to a statement of Mr. Smith, said, he had asked Mr. Everett whether he had ever conveyed the impression to any member of Conference, that he had not written the "Fly-Sheets." This question he had declined to answer; and said he had not answered any question respecting the "Fly-Sheets."

The Rev. S. DUNN moved as an amendment, that Mr. Everett's case should stand over till that time twelve months. Three hands were held up for it, and the original motion that Mr. Everett be expelled and put out of the Conference, was carried by show of hands, three only being held up against it. The resolution respecting Mr. Burdsall, that he be admonished, and all further proceedings dropped, after speeches from the Rev. W. Naylor and the Ex-President, was carried, with about one dissentient.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7.

MR. DUNN'S CASE.

On Tuesday morning, the minutes of the preceding day having been read,

The PRESIDENT said that it was very desirable that the discussion about the "Fly-Sheets" should be brought to a speedy end. He, therefore, would at once call up those who had to be questioned; and as Mr. Dunn had acknowledged on the previous day having communicated with the *Wesleyan Times*, he desired him to stand at the bar of Conference, observing, that his conduct as editor of the *Banner*, and the state of the Nottingham North Circuit, were now before a committee.

The PRESIDENT having reminded him that he had acknowledged his communicating with the *Wesleyan Times*, and he (Mr. D.) having again admitted the fact, the President, without any delay or prefatory remarks, at once put the question.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Dunn, in the name and in behalf of the Conference, I ask you—"Are you the author, or the writer of the 'Fly-Sheets'?"

Mr. DUNN: Mr. President, when, two years ago, at the Liverpool Conference, Mr. Osborn proposed issuing the Declaration—

The PRESIDENT interrupted him by observing that the question he had put to Mr. Dunn had nothing to do with the Declaration, but with the "Fly-Sheets."

Considerable confusion here arose; the President and others persisting that the Declaration was not the matter in point, and Mr. Dunn persisting that the two were inseparable.

He was then asked to reply to the question by a simple "yes" or "no." "I must request," said Mr. Dunn, "to give my answer in my own way. Such conduct is unprecedented, and would not be allowed in any court in the kingdom. It is harsh treatment."

The PRESIDENT assured Mr. Dunn that it was not his wish to treat him harshly, and again put the question.

"Unless," said the interrogated, "I am allowed to preface my answer with a few observations, and to give an explanation of the course I mean to pursue, I do not mean to reply to the question."

The PRESIDENT said that Conference had much business to dispose of, and that there was no time to be lost in needless statements.

Mr. DUNN rejoined, that when the Methodistic life or death of men was at stake, Conference had no business which required more patient attention.

This altercation at length terminating, Mr. DUNN recommenced:—It will be remembered by many present, that, when two years ago permission was asked by Mr. Osborn to test the brethren, I entered my protest against the measure, and said that it would breed discord, that it savoured more of Rome than of England, of Popery than of Methodism.

The PRESIDENT rose and said with great emphasis—Mr. Dunn is out of order. I will not sit in this chair to have this venerable assembly assailed as Papist. Your proceedings are not inquisitorial, they are what are requisite for the maintenance of the purity of the body. Mr. Dunn must confine himself to the language of decency. You shall have justice, Mr. Dunn, but you shall not insult this venerable assembly. These sentences were followed by loud and vociferous cheers from all parts of the Conference.

As soon as Mr. Dunn could gain a hearing, he stated that he was only giving a narrative of what had taken place two years ago: he had not expressed any opinion. Mr. Dunn reminded the Conference that he had used, when Mr. Samuel Jackson was in the chair, at the Liverpool Conference, the very words which now called forth such a demonstration of

feeling, and he then had received no rebuke, nor had he been told then by the chair that the language he had employed was indecent.

Again making an attempt to reply, but being told by the President that all the Conference would listen to was a categorical answer, yes or no, Mr. DUNN replied again that if he were not allowed to make explanatory observations, he should give no answer at all.

He then retired to his seat, the PRESIDENT observing: "You have had an opportunity to clear yourself with your brethren, and you have used it to insult the Conference!"

Mr. JOHN ROBERTS said that after the daring instances of refusal that had been witnessed to reply to the President, he had expected that some of the seniors would have risen to propose the immediate expulsion of such brethren. All the responsibility should not be left to the platform.

Mr. LEAROYD remarked, that, at the Liverpool Conference he understood Mr. DUNN to have disavowed any connection with the "Fly-Sheets."

The PRESIDENT inquired whether Mr. DUNN had deputed Mr. Learoyd to make this statement?

"No," replied Mr. DUNN, in a tone and voice that showed the decision and earnestness of the man.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. DUNN had had "full liberty" to reply to the question.

"I deny it," said Mr. DUNN. (Great confusion and sensation.)

Mr. NAYLOR moved, and Mr. DUNCAN seconded, Mr. DUNN's immediate withdrawal from the Conference—he had given the "lie direct" to the President.

Mr. DUNN attempted to reply, but was unable to obtain a hearing.

The PRESIDENT said he must have the confidence of the Conference. (Loud cheers, and cries of "You have it!") Will you stand by your President? ("We will." Loud cheers.) Has not Mr. DUNN had full opportunity to reply? ("Yes, yes.") Has he not had repeated opportunity, again and again? (Most vehement cheering, and cries of "Yes, yes;" "Motion, motion.") Many urged that the motion should be put; but Mr. Naylor was very reluctantly induced to withdraw it on the President stating that he was quite satisfied that the chair was supported by the Conference, and that it would not comport with the dignity of the Conference to do anything rashly.

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

The case of Mr. Bromley then commenced. Before the President called him from his seat,

Mr. HARRIS rose and said, he had a statement to make that would relieve the Conference of all difficulty with Mr. Bromley. A friend of his had told him and Mr. West that Mr. Bromley had, in private, denied to this gentleman any knowledge of the authors of the "Fly-Sheets," that he disliked their matter and spirit, and that any productions of his which had appeared in them, or in the "Fly-Sheets Vindicated," had been introduced without his knowledge or consent. Mr. Harris further stated that Mr. Bromley had admitted the substantial truth of this occurrence in a conversation with himself and Mr. West, and he hoped this would be satisfactory to the Conference.

Dr. BURNING inquired why, if Mr. Bromley had said this in private, he could not say as much before the Conference? He ought to do so.

The PRESIDENT accordingly summoned him to the bar, and asked whether he had any communication to make on this subject?

Mr. BROMLEY, in a very decided and impressive manner, replied: "I have no communication to make on the subject."

PRESIDENT: "Are you willing to say you had this conversation?"

Mr. BROMLEY: "I have no answer to give to this question."

To another question Mr. Bromley replied, that the mode of proceeding was unchristian and un-English.

Mr. WEST then inquired whether Mr. Bromley would not admit that he had such a conversation with him.

Mr. BROMLEY: "I have no answer to make."

Mr. HARRIS put the same question.

Mr. BROMLEY: "I have no answer to give to this question."

Mr. RIGG, his superintendent, entreated him and implored him to answer.

The PRESIDENT several times renewed the inquiry; and at length put the question, "Are you the author or writer of the 'Fly-Sheets?'"

Each inquiry elicited precisely the same reply, and, in the same decisive tone, "I have no answer to give to you, Mr. President, or to this Conference, on any subject under the sanction of the law of 1835;" adding, at length, "I am prepared to assign my reasons when you are prepared to hear them."

The PRESIDENT presumed that the Conference was not going to submit its laws to discussion. You have rejected our system of discipline. To put friendly questions has always been our usage. From the beginning Conference has asserted its right to put any question to any of its members.

Mr. BROMLEY: "From the beginning it has been the right of every member of the Conference to withhold an answer."

A discussion on the first minutes that ever were issued was terminated by Mr. BROMLEY saying, with much earnestness, "I have no answer to give, and I will give none!"

The PRESIDENT said that about the middle of the last century some preachers arose, charging the Conference with oppression, when Mr. Wesley said to them: "I will not interfere with your conscience, and you shall not interfere with mine." This part of our discipline (putting any question that the Conference pleases to a preacher) must be maintained, not rashly, not unkindly; but in an emergency, where secret sin is committed, that the Conference may purge out the old leaven.

Mr. BROMLEY: "In no emergency may you set aside the law of God."

The PRESIDENT suggested that the minutes recorded in the journals of 1835, respecting Mr. Bromley's conduct in the Warrenite agitation should be read.

Mr. BROMLEY: "I concur in the suggestion."

They were accordingly read by the Secretary, as well as minutes from the several districts in which, from year to year, Mr. Bromley has protested against this law.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Bromley, in 1835 you promised the Conference to forego all declarations on the subject; but you have from time to time forced your sentiments on the brethren. Have you any explanation to give for violating your pledge, and endeavouring to unsettle the minds of the junior brethren?

Mr. BROMLEY: The declaratory act was passed posteriorly to the pledge which I gave to the Conference. I never can consent to submit

to the law of 1835—a law so false in its statements, and so wicked in its principles.

Here the President rose again to protect Conference. The discussion ended; and the committee originally appointed to consider the case of Mr. Everett was requested to report upon the cases of Messrs. George, Griffith, Dunn, and Bromley.

Mr. GRIFFITH intimated to Mr. Dunn, that, as soon as the committee was appointed in Messrs. Everett and Burdsall's case, they were desired to withdraw from the sittings of Conference, and he accordingly suggested to Mr. Dunn the propriety of withdrawing. This they did at once.

ALTERATIONS IN CIRCUITS.

The Conference then proceeded to inquire, What alterations were proposed in Circuits? and what Requests were made, either for the increase or reduction of Preachers in Circuits?

The following changes were agreed to:—*Sixth London*.—The recommendation of the District Meeting was adopted. . . . *Deptford Circuit*.—To be divided; Woolwich to be the head of a new circuit. . . . *Sevenoaks Circuit*.—A single preacher to be granted, and note in the minutes dropped. . . . *Bedford Circuit*.—The third minister to have a house provided. . . . *Wallington and Thame*.—The change between the ministers to be once in six weeks. . . . *York Circuit*.—To be divided; Wimborne to be the head of a new circuit; an additional single preacher to be appointed. . . . *Jersey (French) Circuit*.—To be divided; St. Helier's to have two minister's; St. Peter's to have one. The ministers to change on Sabbath-days four times each quarter. . . . *Penzance Circuit*.—An additional preacher to be appointed, to reside at Newlands. . . . *Aberystwith and Machynlleth Circuits*.—The change to take place once every six weeks. . . . *Ludlow Circuit*.—To have two married ministers, with a grant. . . . *Birmingham West Circuit*.—A fourth junior minister to be appointed; to have a house and a fixed salary. . . . *Bath*.—To have two married ministers. . . . *Namptwich and Crewe*.—The second preacher to reside at Crewe. . . . *Uttoxeter Circuit*.—To be divided; Cheadle to be the head of a new circuit. The ministers to change once a month. . . . *Bury Circuit*.—To have a third minister; a house to be provided. . . . *Huddersfield, Second Circuit*.—An additional married minister to be appointed, on certain conditions recommended by the District Meeting. . . . *Leeds, Second Circuit*.—To have four married ministers. . . . *Wakefield Circuit*.—To have four married ministers. . . . *Rotherham Circuit*.—To be divided; Wath to be the head of a new circuit; two married ministers to be appointed to each. . . . *Grimsby*.—One preacher not to reside at Caistor, but at Grimsby. . . . *Whitby*.—The third minister to reside at Danby Head. . . . *Whitby District*.—The Contingent Fund recommended to grant the same amount, if possible, as last year. . . . *Stockton*.—The second minister to reside at Middlesborough. . . . *Alwick and Berwick Circuits*.—The change of ministers to take place on two Sundays in each quarter. . . . *Wigton*.—The second preacher to reside at Keswick. . . . *Sittingbourne and Feversham Circuits*.—The ministers to change once in four weeks.

CONNEXIONAL OFFICERS.

The following appointments, or re-appointments, being duly moved and seconded, were unanimously agreed to:—The Rev. W. L. Thornton was appointed Joint Editor, with the Rev. George Cubitt, for the ensuing

year. The Rev. Jonathan Crowther was appointed Classical Tutor at Didsbury. The Rev. Dr. Beecham was re-appointed one of the Missionary Secretaries for another term. His valuable services were highly eulogized by several members of the Conference. The Rev. John Bowers was re-appointed Governor of Didsbury for another term. The Rev. Joseph Cusworth was re-appointed Governor of Kingswood School for another term. The Rev. William Lord was re-appointed Governor of Woodhouse Grove School for another term. An assistant was granted, as usual, to the ex-President (Dr. Newton), to enable him to continue his public services to the Connexion. Dr. Newton took occasion to observe that such an appointment had never been made at his instance or request; and it had been at many domestic sacrifices that he had complied with the wishes of the Conference: he had thought, at this conclusion of his Jubilee Year, that it was almost time for him to "study to be quiet;" but he was the servant of the Conference, and if they thought it right and proper to make the appointment, he would so continue their servant for the Lord's sake. The Rev. John Mason was re-appointed Book Steward for another term. An assistant was appointed to the Rev. John Scott, to enable him to continue his valuable labours in the educational department of the Connexion.

The Committee on the Taunton School brought up their report. After some conversation, the Rev. William Vevers was unanimously appointed Governor of that Institution for the ensuing year. Mr. Vevers observed that he had taken no part in this matter; but if he went, under the direction of the Conference, to Taunton, he should endeavour to promote the moral and spiritual welfare of the scholars, and to do the best in his power to serve the Connexion.

After some other matters had been disposed of, in the course of which Mr. Bromley disavowed all knowledge of the publication of his letter in the *Wesleyan Times*, the Conference appointed several Committees to meet next morning—the most important of which was the Stationing Committee.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8.

This morning, after the Conference had been opened in the usual form, the PRESIDENT observed, that as it was necessary for the Stationing Committee to meet immediately, he would request the Rev. G. Marsden to take the chair, in his own unavoidable absence.

The PRESIDENT also suggested the desirableness of the Ministers receiving the Lord's Supper together at some convenient time, that, in that solemn ordinance, they might bind themselves afresh to God and to each other; and he named Friday evening as eligible for that purpose—hoping that all the brethren who could remain in Manchester would attend.

The members of the Stationing Committee then retired, and Mr. Marsden took the chair of the Conference.

BOOK ROOM.

The Report of the Book Room was presented, showing, upon the whole, an increase of sales during the year, and that the general state of its affairs was encouraging. A conversation ensued on various subjects affecting the Magazine and other Periodicals, in the course of which *several ministers* offered useful suggestions, which it was resolved to refer to the consideration of the Book Committee. In the absence of

the Secretary of that Committee, the minutes of its proceedings, and various resolutions connected with the Book Room, were deferred to a future sitting.

CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Rev. F. J. JOBSON read the Report of the Chapel Building Committee—the substance of which was given in our reports of the Preparatory Committees. The Report was highly satisfactory to the Conference, and several of the subjects mentioned in it were deemed most important to the efficient working of this department of Methodism. It plainly appeared from the returns of the several Districts, that the increased attention lately given to the architectural propriety and style of certain Wesleyan Chapels had, in those cases, prevented extravagant expenditure, and proved really economical. It was also fully supported, by the personal testimonies of the ministers assembled, that the recommendation contained in the Report, to employ a respectable architect wherever a chapel is to be erected, is requisite to economy, as well as to secure suitable forms and proportions. The only subject of regret named was, the large number of Chapels erected and enlarged during the year in violation of the printed Laws and Regulations of the Connexion. The cases of these were individually inquired into, and suitable censures pronounced upon the offending parties. It was resolved that, in future, particular inquiry should be made by the Chairmen of Districts, at their annual meeting in May, as to the examination, by the Superintendents, of the accounts of the Trustees of each Chapel in their Circuits. The thanks of the Conference were presented to the Rev. G. Marsden, the Chairman of the Chapel Building Committee, “for his kind and diligent attention to the business of the past year.” The thanks of the Conference were also given to the Rev. F. J. Jobson, “for the zeal, judgment, and ability with which he had discharged his duty as the Secretary to the Chapel Building Committee.” Thanks were given to the Committee “for their careful attention to Chapel Building during the past year.”

SCHOOLS.

The Reports of the Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove School Funds were presented by the Rev. C. PREST, and adopted by the Conference. The usual votes of thanks, and appointments, were agreed to.

At the evening sitting, permission was given to administer the Lord's Supper in sundry Chapels recently erected.

BOOK ROOM.

Such portions of the Book affairs as had not passed the Conference this morning were now submitted to its consideration. A special resolution was adopted, conveying the thanks of the Conference to the Rev. Thomas Jackson and the Rev. William Arthur, for the important services they had rendered in this department during the last four or five months, in which Mr. Cubitt had been left alone in the editorship. It was also stated that the grants from the Book Room, to the several funds of the Connexion, would be equal to those made the preceding year.

CATECHUMEN CLASSES.

The Rev. S. JACKSON brought up the report of the Catechumen Committee, which was, in substance, as follows:—For the purpose of ascertaining the true state of things in the Connexion, in reference to

Catechumen Classes, a schedule was sent into each Circuit, accompanied by a circular. To this communication, 132 Circuits have not returned any answer whatever; 50 Circuits have returned the schedule sent, in blank; 256 Circuits have returned the schedules duly filled up, and containing the required information. In these, there are stated to be of Catechumens 15,709, and of Catechists 1,138, including males and females. So far as can be ascertained, there is this number of young people under the care of *lay* Catechists, and by them met weekly. In addition to these, there are young people met by Ministers exclusively, 5,658; making a total of 21,367. In a very few Circuits, there are included in these classes, children aged only 7, 8, or 9 years; but the great bulk, more, perhaps, than nineteen-twentieths of them, are young persons from 10 to 20 years of age. Before the commencement of the year 1847, such classes had been formed in 27 Circuits. During that year they were formed in 73 more. During 1848, in 95 more; and during the present year, in 28 more. So that in 196 Circuits this work has been commenced since the beginning of 1847. Of these 21,367 young persons, the returns state that 1,913 have passed from the Catechumen into the Adult Classes, and become regular members of society. It appears that the number of Catechumens received directly from the Sunday Schools is 11,171; and there have been derived from other sources 4,141. Twenty-two Circuits have sent formal expressions of approval of the plan and objects; 19 Circuits have either given, or wish to be authorized to give, some sort of ticket to the Catechumens; 30 Circuits have either expressed a wish for a general agent, or appear greatly to need such assistance; 20 Circuits say they have tried to form Catechumen Classes, but have failed in the attempt. The Quarterly Meeting of the Sheffield West Circuit has passed a resolution in favour of the appointment of a general Catechist. One question contained in the schedules sent out, was,—“If the baptized youth in your Circuit are not Catechumens, what ministerial attention do they receive?” and, from various answers returned, it is concluded that, in reference to this department of evangelical labour, there are many Methodists without a method, and many Circuits without a plan, either printed or in manuscript. In conclusion, the Committee stated,—We feel bound, in the name and on the behalf of our youth, to return our unfeigned thanks to those Ministers who have originated Catechumen Classes, and sent us an account of what they have done; and, at the same time, to add that, considering the intelligence and energy which have been displayed, and the success which, by God’s blessing, has been realized, we are led to expect that, at no distant day, there will be 200,000 Catechumens placed under the care of the Wesleyan Ministers in Great Britain; and as to the influence which that will have upon our adult societies, we leave our friends to infer the future from the past, and to form their own conclusions.

The Rev. S. JACKSON, in bringing up the Report, said,—The information it contained had been furnished by the Ministers in the several Circuits. All that he had done was to put their figures together, and exhibit the general results of their proceedings. He tendered his unfeigned thanks to the brethren for the promptitude, intelligence, and energy, with which they had entered into this movement, and thought they had been favoured with a measure of success which was highly *encouraging and satisfactory*. It was his opinion that the same spirit *of enterprise, diffused generally throughout the Connexion, would produce*

effects at once delightful and surprising. The brethren, it was hoped, would not be deterred by the contemplation of apparent difficulties, but at once attempt this work on a large scale. For many years he had been convinced there was much work to be done in this department, and had invited other people to undertake it, but with very trivial success. When resolved to try what could be done by himself, he was agreeably surprised. A combined and vigorous effort would soon give them 200,000 Catechumens in Great Britain; and that number once attained, it was his opinion that Methodism in this country would steadily increase at the rate of 8,000 or 10,000 members per annum.

The Rev. W. H. RULE moved the adoption of the Report recommended to the Conference by the Committee. He urged the propriety of enjoining on the entire body of Wesleyan Ministers that they should take an oversight, not incidental and occasional, but systematic and persevering, of both Catechists and Catechumens. That once, at least, in every quarter the Ministers should visit each class, afford instruction to the young persons, and be known by them as their pastors. Such a visitation would promote the happiest results throughout their future life. He further recommended, following another of the suggestions of the Committee, that the Catechists should be assembled every quarter, to receive an account of their labours, and afford counsel and encouragement. He thought it exceedingly desirable that those who entered on this most important enterprise throughout the country should be united and recognised, as are Class Leaders, Local Preachers, and Sunday School Teachers; that they should act together everywhere as do those others, in order to guard against desultory and disconnected efforts, and the decline of Catechumen classes, in Circuits where they may have been hitherto conducted under the care and personal influence of Ministers more zealous than some others in this cause, but who might thus transfer to their successors bodies of Catechists already instructed in their duties and united in their endeavours.

The Rev. W. BARTON offered some observations in reference to the progress of the Catechumen movement in the Second Leeds Circuit. He stated that there were under the care of the Catechists, or of some or all of the Ministers of the Circuit, Catechumens and other young persons amounting to about 800. He referred to the efforts of the Rev. S. Jackson in promoting the Catechumen Movement, when he was recently stationed in the Leeds Second Circuit. Since his removal the movement had made considerable progress. The Catechists were met once a week by one or more of the Ministers, and this was regarded as of considerable importance. As many as possible of the Catechumens were met by the Ministers of the Circuit in the evening of the days on which the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit was held, and they were addressed on suitable subjects: in addition, the Ministers were accustomed, as frequently as circumstances would allow, to meet the Catechumen Classes, and to endeavour to explain the scripture lesson appointed for the week. Mr. Barton afterwards stated that much importance was attached to these visits and to the Quarterly United Meetings. He referred also to the delivery of occasional lectures on suitable topics by the Ministers of the Circuit or of other Circuits; and concluded by stating that in many Circuits the Catechumen Movements, if they were to be effectually carried out, would require an increase of Ministers.

The Rev. J. MACLEAN was glad Mr. Barton had referred to the importance of the Catechists being met weekly by the Ministers, with a view

to assisting them to prepare the lesson for their classes. This, he was persuaded, would be found essential to the success of the movement, and he trusted the Conference would not allow itself to be diverted from this topic, started by Mr. Barton, to any one of minor consequence. He was confident it was impossible to put the requisite vigour into this branch of their work by any documentary or book instruction, prepared for the Catechists, however carefully got up. He had no faith in such crutches. Let the living ministry take these Catechists in hand, and make a weekly deposit in their minds of the contents of the lesson; and then let them go forth to their Catechumens, to communicate what they had received, improved, and increased, if they liked, by whatever they had themselves been able to gather in the course of their reading. The main difficulty in the way of this lay, he conceived, in the already numerous engagements of the Ministers. It was certain such a weekly dealing with the Catechists would require on the part of the Ministers careful preparation, if it was to be effective: and many would shrink (as he confessed he was himself at first disposed to do) from an engagement involving an addition to duties already, in most cases, too onerous; but there was less real difficulty in the thing than appeared, if brethren were willing to condescend to the mode which he had himself adopted, and which he would communicate for the benefit of the younger Ministers, and such others as like himself might feel that they could not well get on without a little honest stealing. He just took down Benson, Clark, and Watson, and whatever other commentaries he had, and without any attempt at originality, or the least concern about it, he transferred their thoughts to his own use, and having filtered them through his mind, he wrote them down with some care, in the form of a lecture; and having thus charged his own mind with the excellent materials so gathered, he went forth the next day and discharged the entire contents upon his Catechists. The preparation for this Catechist's meeting ordinarily took up an entire afternoon, but it was an afternoon well spent.

The Rev. JOHN W. THOMAS thought that Mr. Maclean had hardly done justice to his argument, or to the catechists, for whose instruction he catered. If he got up at four in the morning, and consulted all the commentaries at his command, and, after a day's prayerful meditation, gave the assembled catechists the result; this could hardly be considered "*stealing*." He would be sorry to make the catechists, and catechumens, receivers of stolen goods. He condemned the plagiarist; but the minister who laboured in reading and study for the instruction of others was not chargeable with *theft*; except as the Promethean fire was said to have been stolen from heaven.

The Rev. JOHN BEDFORD could not entirely concur in the views of those, who thought it desirable that Ministers, in their weekly meetings of the Catechists, should disregard those outlines of exercises which some of the brethren had prepared for the promotion of this work. The principle of intinerancy in the Methodist Connexion appeared to render it necessary that there should be as much uniformity as possible in the instruction given to Catechists, otherwise that valuable class of labourers might be embarrassed and discouraged when a new Minister entered upon his duties in a Circuit. He thought that this might be done without any undue dependence, on the part of the Ministers, upon what had been termed "*crutches*." It was also important, that the Catechists *should be induced to prepare themselves for meeting the Minister, by*

having such an outline for their previous study. In a word, he thought that the best plan would be that which combined the two methods.

The Rev. G. OSBORN brought forward certain resolutions, which had been prepared by the Committee, on the general subject of Catechumen classes.

Other Members of the Conference expressed an opinion, that additional legislation, on this subject, was not at present desirable, and that it would be better for the brethren concerned to proceed, for a time, in working out their own views. If they succeeded, the Conference would have fuller information on which to act, and the Ministers, in their several Circuits, would, under such circumstances, more cordially co-operate in this department of the great work.

The Rev. J. METHELY observed—that, on his arrival in Leeds, as Mr. Jackson's successor, he was not greatly prepossessed in favour of the Catechumen movement;—but, in proportion as he gave his attention to the subject, it grew in importance in his estimation. In the Leeds Second Circuit, there were upwards of 800 young people under the care and supervision of the Catechists; and within the last two years, at least 200 had joined the Society. They gave unquestionable evidence of a genuine work of God. The sources of this movement were to be found in the piety and zeal of the Catechists. These are met, every week, and for the Catechumens there is provided a quarterly review, when the Ministers meet them, and address them on subjects conducive to their edification and conversion. He requested Mr. S. Jackson to provide suitable books, to be placed in the hands of Catechists; for, in doing this, he would very greatly facilitate the formation of new classes.

The Rev. ROBERT JACKSON, on being called upon, observed—It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that, for many years, I have entertained a deep conviction of the importance and practicability of this movement; and, if I had entertained any doubts on this question, what I have witnessed in the Circuit in which I have been stationed, for the last three years, would have entirely removed them. Considerably more than a thousand young people have been collected together, and placed under the care of more than eighty Catechists. Several hundreds of these young people are now meeting in Society. I deem it right to say, as the result of my own observations, that I attach some importance to the quarterly meeting of the Catechumens, for the purpose of giving them tokens. This has an admirable tendency to introduce the young people to the Minister, and give them a mutual interest in each other, and especially if a quarterly lecture be given, either at the time when the tokens are renewed, or afterwards. I wish to add, that it is my full belief that this movement is perfectly practicable. Some of the brethren look upon this work as a burden that cannot be borne, in addition to the duties of a Methodist preacher. But let a Minister have it announced, the previous Sabbath, that he will meet the young people, from twelve to twenty years old, an hour before preaching,—a period which may be very well spared,—and he will find that, although some cannot meet at that time, yet many can and will be present. Then let him give them an exercise, and appoint the most suitable persons he can obtain, to meet them weekly, until he has another opportunity of meeting them; and he will soon find it to be not only practicable, but pleasant and delightful. I have found this to be an admirable means of greatly increasing the week-night congregations. It will be a good thing to attempt the establishment of these classes at this time. They will furnish an admirable antidote

against the unprofitable talk and dissatisfaction that will doubtless be found in many places, the next few months. Catechumen classes will enlist the sympathies of our people, and fill their minds with a movement which is calculated to awaken a lively, deep, and general interest, by its magnitude, benevolence, and great and pressing necessity. In my judgment nothing will be more likely to counteract any bad feeling that may be found, respecting the decisions of this Conference. This is a great and solemn question. No man who has turned his attention to this subject will doubt that there exist, within the skirts of Methodism, 300,000 young people, from twelve to twenty years of age; before we can collect these, and place them under the care of the Church, there will be 300,000 more. If we do but cultivate this interesting field of Christian toil, we shall be an increasing people while the sun and the moon endure.

The Rev. E. WALKER thought that more stress was laid upon the necessity of caution, in legislating upon this subject, than, under all circumstances, the case required. The only point, as he understood it, in which it was sought to advance in the way of legislation, was, that instead of recommending that an effort should be made, in every Circuit, to form a Catechumen class, the Conference should *direct* this to be done. Considering the hold this important subject had obtained upon our community, he thought they might safely and wisely proceed thus far.

After this discussion it was understood that the subject of further legislation should be postponed at present.

Mr. OSBORN moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Samuel Jackson, for his valuable services in this department, and his appointment, as Convenor of the Committee, for the ensuing year.

The Rev. CHARLES PREST had great pleasure in seconding the well-deserved vote of thanks to the Rev. S. Jackson.

The Rev. S. JACKSON then moved the appointment of the Committee, which was agreed to.

[At the close of these proceedings, Mr. Jackson requested the Conference to allow him to send J. P. Cook into France, in the character of a Wesleyan Catechist, and to apply for, and receive, subscriptions towards his support. This request was readily granted, and it is hoped that so praiseworthy and promising an enterprise will be generally countenanced.]

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

On Wednesday night sitting, about seven o'clock, Dr. Dixon came forward and communicated to the Conference, in a speech delivered with deep feeling, that he had conversed, in company with William Bunting, with Mr. Bromley; that he (Mr. Bromley) had expressed a wish that the Conference would hear, though it were in a small committee, the reasons he had for the conduct he had felt it right to pursue: and that if after such statement of his views the Conference thought it right to retain the rule in its present form, he (Mr. Bromley) would engage no longer to agitate the subject. The statement was received with evident and general satisfaction; but was opposed by Dr. Newton and others on the ground that Mr. Bromley's letter to the President had appeared in the *Wesleyan Times*.

The PRESIDENT complained that an official document addressed to him should thus, without his knowledge, be made public.

Mr. BROMLEY, on being appealed to, stated his total ignorance of the *fact until that moment*.

It was then agreed that Mr. Bromley should be heard before the Committee.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9.

GIFT OF CHAPELS.

A letter was read, addressed to the Ex-President, from Thomas Hazlehurst, Esq., of Runcorn, offering to the Connexion, on behalf of himself and others concerned in their erection, two Chapels, free of debt,—one at Runcorn, the other at Farnworth, in the same neighbourhood. The Conference gratefully accepted the offer, and directed an official letter of thanks to be addressed to Mr. Hazlehurst.

ADDITIONAL HOME LABOURERS.

A letter was read by Dr. Bunting from Mr. Haydon, banker, of Guildford, stating that he had read the *Watchman* with great interest,—particularly a passage referring to the necessity of extended operations for the conversion of men,—and offering to receive into his house a young man, if the Conference thought proper to appoint one to labour in that neighbourhood. He expressed his gratitude that, though late in life, he had not been allowed to depart out of this world without having the privilege of taking a part in so good a work. The Conference resolved, that this offer should be gratefully accepted.

Mr. HASWELL said that he knew a gentleman in the York District who was willing to make a similar offer.

MR. DUNN AND THE NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT MEETING.

The Report of the Committee in this case was brought up, and after some brief remarks certain resolutions confirming the proceedings of the District Meeting were adopted.

STATIONS.

The Stations having been brought in to the Conference after their revision in Committees were read a first time as usual, without interruption or remark. The PRESIDENT then observed that it was highly probable some brethren might think alterations yet necessary; and in order to give such brethren an opportunity of arranging those alterations it would be better to pass to some other business before the second reading, and thus save the valuable time of the Conference.

DEFALCATIONS OF AN EXPELLED TREASURER.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the best mode of meeting the defalcations of John S. Stamp, formerly a treasurer of the Children's Fund, (who was expelled last week,) was brought before the Conference, and after some conversation was adopted. It recommended that certain sums should be contributed by different Classes of Ministers, to make up the deficiency. The same Committee brought up a series of resolutions which they had agreed to recommend to the Conference, designed to prevent the occurrence of any such defalcation in future, and to provide additional guards for the security of the Connexion in relation to all its funds. The resolutions were adopted.

MISSION AFFAIRS.

The Minutes of the Missionary Committee which were fully read before the Committee of Review—(see our former Report,)—and also the resolutions agreed to by that Committee were submitted to the Conference, and unanimously adopted. The particular resolution,

expressing the confidence of the Committee in the executive of the Mission House, received the most marked and cordial approval.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT, in acknowledging the vote of thanks to the Treasurers, took occasion to observe that the approval of such a body of Ministers was always valuable to him, but especially so at the present time, and in connection with missionary affairs. If he could have supposed it possible that his fathers and brethren had thought that Mr. Farmer and himself could have lent themselves to any malversation of the fund devoted to so sacred a cause, it would have been to his mind an occasion of deep distress. But he had never entertained the thought for a moment; and he would again say that if there were any persons who wanted information on such subjects, he and those with whom he was concerned would be always ready to give it. It was a sacred work; and if ever his colleague and himself had been faithful in the performance of the duties of their treasurership, they had been as much so of late years as ever, and he need not say it was their hope that they would always be "found faithful."

The Rev. S. D. WADDY suggested the expediency of adopting the same mode and principle of payment of the Missionary Secretaries as was adopted by other Missionary Societies: he believed it would be better for them and better for the Connexion.

This led Mr. SCOTT to observe that, no doubt, the Missionary Secretaries, if they consulted their personal interests, would be ready to agree to such an arrangement; but then the question would arise whether it would be desirable for the Society to give up the accommodation now possessed in the Secretaries' houses for Missionaries and their families, both on going to and returning from foreign stations.

It was understood that this matter should be referred to the consideration of the Missionary Committee.

On a vote of thanks to the Secretaries being passed with the utmost cordiality, the PRESIDENT, addressing them, said,—“The Conference expresses its entire confidence in your proceedings and services.”

Dr. BEECHAM, in acknowledging the vote, said that he would not take up much time, but he returned to them his most grateful thanks. At all times their vote of confidence was valuable;—at the present time it was peculiarly so;—and he and his colleagues would return to their duties cheered and encouraged by that expression of their esteem. He would also take the opportunity of thanking the Conference for the cordial manner in which they had re-appointed him to his office. He had not sought that office; but, having been called to it by his brethren, he had endeavoured to perform its duties, and he should now address himself to them with renewed determination, and consecrate himself afresh to the service of the Connexion. In saying this, he knew that he was also giving expression to the feelings of his colleagues.

DONATIONS TO CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

At the evening sitting the Rev. W. HORTON said, that he had two legacies to announce, left to their funds by the late Mr. Williams, of Dalkeith, one to the Missionary Society, the other to the Annuitant Society. The sums named in the will were £500 for the Missionary Society, and £800 for the Annuitant Society. There had, however, been some expensive legal proceedings, and it was doubtful whether the full amount would be realized. He, (Mr. H.) however, had received, since he came to the Conference, from Robert Selby, Esq., of Edinburgh, the

solicitor employed in the case, an interim payment as follows:—Missionary Society, £250; less expenses, £22 8s. 3d.; leaving £227 11s. 9d. Annuitant Society, £150; less expenses, £13 9s. 3d.; leaving £136 10s. 9d. Mr. Horton added, that the late Mr. Williams was a member of the Free Church of Scotland.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

The Rev. C. PEARCE brought up the report of this Committee. He stated, that there had not been much matter for its consideration during the past year. There had been one question of importance—the Charitable Trust Bill,—the nature and operations of which he explained. Circumstances, however, had occurred which led to its abandonment, in the past session, and the Committee would keep a watchful eye on any such measure in future.

A conversation ensued relative to the degree of liberty granted to soldiers in the exercise of their Methodistic privileges. The general impression appeared to be, that there usually existed every disposition, on the part of the authorities, to grant such privileges, and that if a slight exception occurred now and then, it was not desirable to create unnecessary excitement respecting it.

Mr. VASEY referred to some other subjects which had occupied the attention of the Committee, particularly one relating to the remission of duties on timber and other materials used in the erection of chapels. From the statements made, it appeared, that it was not yet deemed expedient to bring the subject under the notice of the Government officers, on any general principle, until an application, now pending, had been decided.

The usual votes of thanks to the officers and Committee, and their re-appointment, were agreed to.

The remainder of the business, left unfinished at a previous sitting, on the subject of the Chapel Relief Fund, was transacted, and the usual votes and appointments cordially adopted.

IRISH ADDRESS.

The answer to the Address of the Irish Conference was brought up and read by the Rev. Wm. Arthur, and was adopted.

The Rev. THOMAS WAUGH was sure that the Irish Conference would receive that address with the profoundest respect. He need not dwell on the evils and miseries of his country: they were sounded from one part of Europe to the other, and indeed from one end of the world to the other. These evils, he did not hesitate to say, mainly sprung from Popery. There was a people in Ireland, as well-instructed and as well-conducted as any other people in the world; the Protestant Irish were not inferior to the same class of persons in any part of the empire. When other inhabitants of that country were suffering, never had more sympathy towards them been shown, than by their Protestant fellow-countrymen. The members of the Wesleyan Society, in particular, were elevated in the social scale, by their religious principles, above the general mass of the Irish people: He had ascertained that, at one time, when great distress prevailed, there was only one place in Ireland in which any member of the Connexion was in the poor-house. This he attributed to the blessing of God upon their religious principles, which taught them to be industrious and economical—economical in a good sense,—and thus saved them, in many cases, from the deep destitution into which others

were plunged. He then referred to the extensive emigrations which had taken place. Many of the best people, connected with the societies in Ireland, had gone to increase the vital strength of Methodism in America. Thus their societies had been sadly torn up. Nearly 1,200 members had emigrated during the past year alone; yet, notwithstanding these discouraging circumstances, such had been the blessing of God upon the labours of his servants, that the nett decrease had been smaller than might have been expected. That God had blessed them with success, even to that extent, was a cause of gratitude: still, they could not but deeply feel, because, in many parts of the country where the preachers had lodged, their friends had been removed by emigration or other causes, so that they were unable, in some instances, to carry on the work. He thanked the Conference for the help annually afforded to them: without that help they could not well get on. There was no want of will to support the cause on the part of their people. In illustration of this, he adverted to the amount raised for the Missionary Society and for other objects. No society in the nation did so much, in proportion to its means, as the poor, despised, and suffering members of the Connexion in Ireland. He would not further trespass on their time;—he was familiar with the faces of most of them, and they with his;—his time had nearly come to a close;—but he would say, that one thing had given him great pleasure during that Conference. For some time he had mourned over the indications of a spirit injurious to the union and peace of the Connexion; but when he saw the matters brought to an issue which had been agitated in the body, he perceived that they were “all true men.” It was very easy for two or three individuals to try to make mischief; but they were not the people of England. He was sure, that if the ministers of the Connexion lived to God, loved one another, and laboured for the common good, Methodism would rise above all difficulties; it would become the glory of all lands; and when they themselves had finished their course, they might look down from the world of spirits upon its steady progress with increasing joy. (Warm applause.)

The Rev. WILLIAM REILLY felt obliged to the Conference, for its kind reception of himself and colleagues. He adverted particularly to the preaching of the gospel in the Irish language. There were brethren in Ireland successfully using that language for the good of their countrymen; and though there were not so many of that class now as in the days of Gideon Ouseley, yet he could not but refer to one who was really a great Irishman—his friend and brother, the Rev. John Feely, whose labours, in his native language especially, deserved commendation. In many parts of Ireland, and in some places where the greatest political agitation had prevailed, few of the people spoke anything but English, and, therefore, preaching in the streets and other places, in English, would be of great use to the mass of the population. If they had funds at their disposal, they could soon have establishments containing thousands, who would profess to be turned from the faith of their fathers; but their object was to *convert* men. In doing so, they had the same confidence in the Gospel as Mr. Wesley possessed 102 years ago, when he visited that country. In conclusion, he would observe, that he was much gratified with the reception which Conference had given both to their Address and to themselves. They had only been pained, during their attendance, by the circumstances to which Mr. Waugh had referred; *but they rejoiced* to find the preachers sound to their hearts core, and *hoped to see, by and by, the most delightful results.* (Cheers.)

CANADIAN ADDRESS.

The address of the Canadian Conference was read by the Rev. JOHN FARRAR.

Dr. ALDER then rose, and was cordially greeted by his brethren, who appeared rejoiced to see him restored to such a measure of health as permitted him to attend the Conference. He observed, that having from the beginning been intimately connected with the great measure of union between the British and Canadian Conferences, it afforded him unmingled satisfaction to learn, from the address which had just been read, that the anticipations which he had cherished in reference to that important arrangement had been more than realized, and that the Canadian body at the present period was in such a united and flourishing condition. He expressed a hope that the great principle of the arrangements which have been entered into with the western division of the important province of Canada, might, ere long, be extended to our work in British North America generally; as the Conference must perceive that, just in proportion as the Missionary Committee was relieved from the expense and responsibility of our purely Colonial Missions, they would be enabled to extend their operations for the benefit of the heathen in any region of the globe. He took that occasion to express his gratitude to the Conference for the sympathy they had manifested towards him in his affliction, and the fervent prayers they had offered on his behalf, and concluded by moving the acceptance of the Address.

The Rev. WILLIAM LORD seconded the motion, which was cordially adopted.

The Rev. JOHN RYERSON, (Representative from Canada,) on being called upon, said—He came before the Conference under the influence of very different feelings from those which he experienced when, on a former occasion, he was present at Bristol. There was now a peace in his mind, and a feeling of confidence and affection towards this body, which he did not then so fully possess. The object of himself and of his fellow representative, who visited the Conference with him three years ago, was to heal differences, and to re-unite the Canadian Branch of the Wesleyan Church to the great and flourishing body in this country. He was happy to know that that had been done completely and satisfactorily. It was unnecessary for him to point out the success of their esteemed friend Dr. Alder, in overcoming many formidable difficulties in that important work. He did not at one time think, in view of the conservative power which the Articles of Union contained, that such an object could be accomplished without serious loss; but they had cause to say—"What has God wrought!" He had so overruled all things, that there had been no loss. This was, indeed, "marvellous in their eyes." The God of Jacob was in it. The union thus effected would promote the Gospel throughout the spreading community of Canada, to an extent not to be calculated. He wished to observe also that the good which was done in this country by means of Methodism was not to be estimated by the mere addition of members to the body here. Many who were converted here went to Canada: they formed settlements in different and distant parts of that country; the Preachers of the Canadian body followed them to their new and remote habitations, and gladly broke to them the bread of eternal life. Could the members of this Conference be present in some of those assemblies, and observe with what gratitude the settlers received the Preachers to their humble cots—with what feelings they referred to Methodism in this country, and to the venerable

men of that body, by whose instrumentality many of them had been converted,—and could they observe with what delight the settlers came, often from a great distance, to the places of worship which had been erected—their hearts would be gladdened indeed. He had often known instances of females, who had travelled twelve miles, with children in their arms, to attend the House of God. One circumstance he would venture to mention, to show their thankfulness for the ministry of the gospel. An old lady from Yorkshire, in a distant settlement, had been at work in the field. On her return home, she saw the track of a horse. She had ground to be sure that there could have been no horse in that neighbourhood for a time, but that of a Missionary; and such was her joy that she kissed the track of the horse's feet, and lifted up her heart in thankfulness to God, that the word of life was brought so near. He wished to refer to the Indian missions in Canada. They had, in all, ten such missions: connected with which, there were six native Missionaries, two preaching in the Mohawk, and four in the Chippewa language. On these missions, several men had been raised up among the Indians who were now ministering in the things pertaining to the kingdom of God to their countrymen. The friends of missions in Canada were truly loyal to that great work. In the committee which was held in London, three years ago, he had expressed his belief that the amount of money then anticipated would be raised: he was happy to say that it had been exceeded by £100 the first year, and by £200 the second year. The number of teachers in their Sabbath Schools was very encouraging. The statistics of their schools were the following:—

	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Vols. in Libraries.
In 1849....	268	1,795	12,609	28,344
In 1848 ...	206	1,368	9,559	18,207
Net increase	62	427	3,050	5,137

The visit of Dr. Dixon during the past year, had been rendered a great blessing; but he had had smooth ground to travel compared with Dr. Alder. The union had been fully effected; and his visit, under these circumstances, had been of vast service,—as, he would venture to say, any other Minister's would be, who might be selected to preside over their Conference. Whoever filled that honourable office was not only President of the Canadian Conference, but *Episcopus* of the whole Connexion in Canada. He had the charge of the entire work, as representative of that body during his residence there. That had been fully stated and decided in the Canadian Conference. Then, they had been requested by Dr. Alder to adopt a Model Deed for the settlement of the Chapels and other Connexional property. They had framed one after the plan of that in Great Britain, which secured to the United Connexion all such property. The whole was in connexion with the British Conference. They had also applied for acts of Incorporation, in reference to their Missionary Society, and their Book Establishment, which, though not yet granted, were framed on the same Conservative principle of union with that body. Hence, should even a dissolution of the political union of Canada with the Parent State take place, that would not affect the union of the British and Canadian Conferences. "It is," said he, "in our hearts to live and die with you; we wish to follow your steps." Nothing had gratified him more than to observe the binding ligaments which held that Conference together. With great delight he should *inform his friends* of what the Lord was doing for the stability of their

principles; and he trusted that the blessing of God would ever be upon them. He wished also to mention that they had a College, in which sixty or seventy young men were receiving a suitable education. They had also a Female Academy, where nearly one hundred young ladies were educated in such a manner as would fit them for respectable situations in civil and religious society. The blessing of the Lord rested on that institution; it was established at Hamilton, and their friend Dr. Dixon had visited it. He (Mr. Ryerson) had detained the Conference longer than he had intended. He thanked them for the kindness and affection with which they had received him, and should ever entertain a lively sense of their great goodness. He prayed that God might prosper them more and more; and, with all his heart, he wished them the choicest blessings. (Mr. R. sat down amidst loud applause.)

The **PRESIDENT**—(in the name of the Conference)—We rejoice to see Mr. Ryerson among us, and hope that the Union which has been so happily effected will exist till time shall be no more.

Dr. Dixon, Dr. Alder, and Mr. Thornton were directed to prepare and bring in an answer to the Address.

Dr. **BEAUMONT** expressed the satisfaction and delight with which he had heard the statement of Mr. Ryerson. It was a marvellous thing that a union of so much importance had been effected so happily, so holily, and with such complete success. It showed good heart and good sense on the part of the Canadian brethren, and great wisdom and kindness on the part of those who had been entrusted with that matter by the body. It seemed that Dr. Alder went over, and effected a union of the parts which had been rent: then Dr. Dixon went, and he cemented it. They had all the parts of a great work in Canada—all its elements and vitality in vigour. Their schools were extraordinary. They beat us hollow—that was, for the time and for the circumstances—for they had not our wealth and our strength; but with such as they had they brought forth good fruits willingly. He looked forward to a great Conference, on the other side of the Atlantic, which should bring all the parts to one focus, so that there might be a general power united to spread the Gospel of God; and, as a member of that Conference, he could not but express the great satisfaction which he felt, and which he was sure the Conference felt, with Mr. Ryerson's statement. Both the circumstances and the manner of it were gratifying—so Christian, so simple, so intelligent, so satisfactory. He would add—May God speed the work!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10.

MISSIONARY DEPUTATIONS.

The Rev. Dr. Beecham brought up the List of Missionary Deputations, which was agreed to, subject to such alterations as might be found necessary.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Rev. Robert Newstead was called upon by the President to present the Sabbath Report to the Conference. It was a document of considerable length, and contained much interesting information on Sabbath subjects.

Mr. **NEWSTEAD** introduced the Report by observing that he counted it a privilege to have been able to bring the Report under the previous notice of the President and Secretary of the Conference, and to have availed himself of the counsels of his friends, the Revs. W. L. Thornton

and P. M'OWAN. It had been submitted at length to the Sabbath Committee, and had given rise to a most interesting discussion, in the course of which several valuable suggestions had been made, which had subsequently been embodied in the Report. He went on to observe that though the present was the first Sabbath Report ever presented to the Conference by order, yet the official documents of the Conference bore ample testimony to the care and vigilance with which it had watched over the sanctification of the Lord's Day.

Of the Report, it will be necessary here to give merely an outline. It makes honourable mention of the labours and successes of the Lord's Day Society of London, and of the Scottish Sabbath Alliance; also, of the Evangelical Alliance. It proceeds to notice, with great interest, the Working Men's Sabbath Prize Essays, and their pleasing and happy results. The lamented death of Sir Andrew Agnew is touchingly dwelt upon, and the fact recorded that the mantle of the deceased Baronet has fallen upon his son, the present Sir A. Agnew. In adverting to the present state of the Sabbath question, the Report takes notice of the cessation from the 1st of January last of the payment of Money Orders at all the Post-offices in the kingdom, and the shutting up of the public-houses, on the Lord's Day; the efforts of Mr. Hindley for the suppression of Sunday Trading; and the efforts of the largest towns in the kingdom in favour of the non-delivery of Letters and Newspapers on the Lord's Day. The Report mentions, with approval, the summary of principles on which the Manchester Sabbath Society is based, and recommends their adoption to other Societies which may be formed. An opinion is given in the Report that, on the whole, notwithstanding recent glaring innovations, the Sabbath question gains ground in the country, and grows in public favour. In adverting generally to their own proceedings, the Report states, that the Committee took strong measures in resisting Mr. Locke's Bill, and dwells forcibly on the terrible evil of Sabbath Railways in their demoralizing tendency and effects:—condemning especially the practice, which it is feared prevails in many places, of religious persons using the railways on Sundays for professedly religious purposes. The Report closes with a series of practical suggestions, among which are,—the formation of Sabbath Committees or small associations in Circuits, for the protection of the Sabbath; the delivery of sermons on the Sabbath subject simultaneously; the printing of a series of Sabbath Tracts; the disuse of the Post Office on the Lord's Day, especially in the reception of letters; with an appeal to Christian railway proprietors.

Mr. NEWSTEAD concluded the Report,—which was heard throughout with marked attention,—by thanking the Conference for their patient hearing. He finally read the resolution of the Committee, which is as follows:—

“The Report of the Sabbath Committee having been read and considered, the meeting expresses its cordial approval, and earnestly recommends it to the adoption of the Conference; and also recommends that it be printed and widely circulated, with such additions or omissions as may be approved of by the Committee.”

The Rev. ALEXANDER BELL hoped that some of the passages contained in the Report would be carefully guarded,—and particularly adverted to one touching on the employment of conveyances for Ministers on the Lord's Day:

The Rev. P. M'OWAN said,—The sanctification of the Sabbath, scripturally understood, lies at the very foundation of all practical and ex-

perimental piety. Just in proportion as nations, families, and individuals rise in the scale of moral and religious excellence, they revere and sanctify the Day of the Lord: and, in the same proportion as they decline in civilization, in the love of the truth, and in moral and religious propriety, they slight and trample upon the Sabbath law. One chief reason why the spirit and principles of the Reformation exist in greater vigour and efficiency in this country, than in any other country in Europe, has been, that we, by the grace and providence of God, have been led to adopt more scriptural views of the Christian Sabbath, and to pay a stricter regard to its sacred duties, than the nations in question. One of the first and most ominous signs of backsliding, which we have to deplore in those who forsake their first love, is, Sabbath breaking, in some one of its pleasurable forms. And, on the other hand, one of the most common and satisfactory evidences of penitence and of piety, which we witness among our new converts is, holy Sabbath keeping. On all these accounts, I regard the Sabbath question as one of vital importance to the social and religious interests of the whole human family. The Report which has been read,—though, perhaps, too diffuse for publication in its present form,—is rich in valuable details and in judicious suggestions; and I have, therefore, pleasure in moving its adoption, and that it be printed in a cheap form, under the care of our Editors. The motion also recommends that our Ministers shall preach upon the duties and obligations of the Lord's Day, on some Sunday in the month of October next. Now, in recommendation of this suggestion I would remark, that sermons were thus simultaneously preached by our own Ministers, and those of other evangelical bodies,—in the town of Hull while I was stationed there,—and the very best effects produced. Preaching specifically on this subject will impart much instruction and warning to our congregations, and especially to our young people: and, therefore, I earnestly hope the resolution will pass, which I now beg to submit to the Conference:—

“The Conference adopts, with satisfaction, the Report of the Sabbath Committee, and directs that it be printed under the care of our Editors, and widely circulated through the Book-Room, among our people. The Conference also approves, generally, of the suggestions of the Committee, and recommends the delivery of Sermons, on the important subject of the Sabbath, by our Ministers, on one of the Sundays in October ensuing, which may be found on the whole to be the most convenient.”

The Rev. W. H. RULE, after a few brief remarks, cordially seconded the resolution.

The Rev. W. HORTON said—I fully concur in the general drift of the Report, and attach great importance to the objects it proposes to secure. I have found that a practice obtains in some places, which appears to me to involve a profanation of the Lord's day. In some of our Sunday schools our Juvenile Periodicals, as well as Hymn Books and Bibles, are sold on the Sabbath. In some places, too, our Circuit plans are sold on the Sabbath. Now, it does appear to me, that such transactions, on the Sabbath are indefensible, and, in their tendency, most mischievous. I wish to call the attention of the Committee to this subject. I do not say that it should be introduced into the Report; but I think something should be done to suppress these habits of buying and selling on the Lord's day.

The Rev. J. C. LEPPINGTON suggested that so many of the practical points presented by the different speakers, as the Conference were agreed

on, should be collected and incorporated in the Pastoral Address to the Societies; that the subject would thus come regularly and certainly before all the Societies, in the reading of that Address; and that the opportunity thus afforded might be improved to make any additional observations on so important a subject, which each Minister might see good.

The Rev. JAMES SCHOLDS had reason to fear that, in the colliery districts, some over-men, or other official persons, were employed in the mines, for several hours, on the Sabbath, beyond strict necessity; and thought that, at our District Meetings, the subject ought to be prominently brought forward, that by due consultation, avoiding all extremes, there might be secured a more uniform maintenance of discipline in reference to the Sabbath. Mr. S. also urged, that if, in connection with Wesleyan Methodism, the work of God could be carried on, with a less excessive and unseemly amount of travelling on the sacred day of rest, greater good would ultimately be accomplished,—the preacher being saved from improper exhaustion, a higher tone of feeling among the people being secured, and the blessing of the Lord more abundantly resting upon the devoutly conducted exercise of the sanctuary.

The Rev. Dr. BEAUMONT, after making some observations on the remarks of the preceding speakers, deprecated the too common practice of obtaining money in Sabbath-schools on the Lord's day for religious periodicals and other publications, and for other objects, which he considered calculated to break down the moral tone, both of the children and teachers. With reference to that part of the Report which recommended that sermons, on the due observance of the Sabbath, should be preached on a particular Sunday in October, he was of opinion, that a frequent inculcation of the duty, as opportunity offered, would be more effectual than if the brethren merely acted upon the recommendation on one particular Sabbath.

The Rev. J. LOUTIT observed—The various excellent resolutions, which the Conference had, in preceding years, passed upon this important subject, had promoted the great duty of Sabbath observance,—as well as strengthened the hands of Ministers and Christian people. He supported the adoption and circulation of the Report. He (Mr. L.) differed entirely from Dr. Beaumont, in thinking that no particular day should be devoted to bring—in at least one sermon—the obligation and perpetual claims of the Lord's day before the people. He submitted that no day was so appropriate for that subject as the Sabbath itself.

The Rev. P. DUNCAN said—It would not, in his opinion, be sufficient for promoting the better observance of the Sabbath, to point out certain evils to be remedied. To effect that object, it would be necessary to displace them by active habits of a scriptural piety. What they very much required was, a higher sense of the value and solemnity of public worship, as an instituted ordinance of God; and he scarcely knew anything which would produce this more effectually, than by an observance of a rule, enacted some years ago, prohibiting a certain respectable class of Ministers from leaving their own Circuits so frequently on the Lord's-day. The results of this were deplorable. The walls of towns were covered with placards, announcing the popular preacher, and the worship of God was degraded into a mere performance, or public entertainment, to obtain money. In many of the villages, the cause of some charity was to be advocated, and not a few were in the habit of going from place to place, to be present on such occasions. These exhibitions were frequently of

the most disgusting description; for, through the noise of trombones, clarionets, and other instruments of music, the very appearance of religion was driven from the place. In the City Circuits, they had substantially the same evil, within their limits. Every little matter connected with their congregations must be announced from all the pulpits; and if this were not done for the very purpose of unsettling the people, and sending them to other chapels, he wished to know what it was done for? The effect of all this was too obvious,—public worship was degraded, and in not a few instances the Sabbath was profaned. Let them, as Ministers, keep more to their own Circuits. Let them be found in their own pulpits;—their people would then be found in their own pews;—the tone of feeling relative to the solemnity of public worship would be elevated, and the cause of Sabbath observance would be greatly promoted.

The Rev. G. MARSDEN adverted to the superiority of this country in its observance of the Sabbath over many parts of the continent. In those capitals where the Sabbath was neglected it had been seen that “blood had flowed through their streets,” and that the tone of morals was very low. While it was evident that much needed to be done in Great Britain, yet there was reason for thankfulness that this country had been preserved from such desecration, and that the divine judgements had been averted.

The resolution was then cordially adopted.

The Rev. W. L. THORNTON moved, that the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. R. Newstead, the Secretary of the Sabbath Committee, for his assiduous services in this department; and, in so doing, Mr. Thornton bore testimony to the diligence of Mr. Newstead, and to his own sense of the value of his labours.

Mr. LEPPINGTON, in seconding the motion, remarked, that he hoped Dr. Beaumont did not intend to include, in his censure, the free contributions of either children or teachers to *purely* religious objects, such as Missions, &c., for it was as proper that these contributions should be made in a School, as in a Chapel, on the Lord’s-day; and it was very undesirable to offer any impediment to the voluntary offerings of young people towards the support of the cause of God.

The resolution having been unanimously adopted, was briefly acknowledged by Mr. NEWSTEAD; and it was understood that a Sabbath Observance Committee should be appointed at a future sitting.

SALE OF A CHAPEL.

Dr. ALDER requested and obtained the permission of the Conference, for the Trustees of Argyle Street Chapel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, to sell their present premises, in order to the erection of a larger Chapel.

NUMBERS IN SOCIETY.

The Rev. THOMAS DICKIN presented the official return of the number of members in the Connexion, which was as follows:—

IN GREAT BRITAIN.

District.	On Trial.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
London	1180	25617	91	—
Bedford, &c.	746	10792	452	—
Kent	484	7485	18	—
Norwich, &c.	716	11377	3	—
Oxford	499	6810	313	—
Portsmouth	218	5154	—	55
Guernsey	59	3225	—	47
Devonport.....	621	7464	626	—

District.	On Trial.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cornwall	3117	18557	—	580
Exeter	415	5764	76	—
Bristol	1020	12388	728	—
Bath	785	9100	507	—
First South Wales	233	3062	306	—
Second South Wales	145	4171	—	155
North Wales	523	6825	141	—
Birmingham, &c	1361	18442	454	—
Macclesfield	704	9474	310	—
Liverpool	873	11876	584	—
Manchester, &c	1380	22674	1100	—
Hallifax, &c	938	19230	250	—
Leeds	925	20960	333	—
Sheffield	963	14155	717	—
Nottingham, &c	1553	19178	367	—
Lincoln	1325	14840	583	—
Hull	966	16027	238	—
York	780	13950	610	—
Whitby, &c	479	7054	245	—
Newcastle	888	11042	391	—
Carlisle	357	3898	336	—
Isle of Man	71	3474	424	—
Edinburgh, &c	191	2983	56	—
Shetland	70	1836	87	—
	<u>24563</u>	<u>348274</u>	<u>10250</u>	<u>837</u>
			837	
Net Increase			9413	

SUMMARY.

In Great Britain—This year	348,274
Last year	338,861
Net increase	9,413
In Ireland—Last year	23,142
This year	22,221
Net decrease	921
	8,492
On the Foreign Stations—This year	97,746
Last year	97,451
Net increase	295
Total net increase	8,787

STATIONS.

The second reading of the Stations was commenced, and, with the exception of some reports on cases of discipline, occupied the remainder of the day.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11.

MEMORIALS, ETC.

At the opening of the Conference, this morning, the President stated, that he had received several documents on matters which it would be proper to mention to the Conference. He then proceeded to lay before it a communication from the Registrar General of Births, suggesting that, for the convenience of parties who might search the General Registry Office, it was desirable that a list should be forwarded to him of *Chapels as they were included in the Circuits of 1847*. After a brief conversation, it was determined to refer this matter to the Committee of Privi-

leges, who were to obtain the requisite lists, and compile therefrom one general list for the Registrar.

A communication was read from the Secretary of the Association for the Suppression of Beer Shops, asking the Conference to name some Wesleyan Minister competent to give evidence before the House of Peers, on the evils arising from such places of resort. No motion was founded on this application.

A letter from the Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society of Birmingham was read; and various other documents and communications were laid before the Conference, which were ordered to be officially acknowledged.

A memorial from several missionaries, stationed in Jamaica, on the subject of allowances, occasioned some discussion. There seemed reason to suppose, that a copy of this memorial had found its way to the editor of a certain journal before it was transmitted to the President; but no one seemed able to account for this irregularity. The Rev. Edmund Lockyer stated, that he had brought over a copy for Dr. Beaumont, which he had conveyed to him; but to no other person had he given a copy. This brought up Dr. Beaumont, who said, that he received the document referred to, but had communicated it "to no body or soul whatever." He had neither given "substance, essence, nor circumstance of it to the *Wesleyan Times*, or any other Times all over the universe." He had not had time to read over all the statements accompanying the memorial, and he did not conceive the Conference could hear them, they were so voluminous. If he had known that one of the memorialists would have been present, he did not think that he should have received the memorial at all; he should probably have told him to state his own case. Mr. Scott said he possessed a document showing the scale of allowances paid to the missionaries all over the world, which would rebut all the slanders that had been circulated about "cutting down" those allowances. He afterwards proceeded to give a statement of the scale, as applicable to Jamaica, from which it appeared that there was no just cause for complaint. Mr. DUNCAN, formerly a missionary in the same field, was only afraid that, from Mr. Scott's statement, some persons might think there was extravagance rather than parsimony, as to allowances: his conviction was, the missionaries were just about as well off as the brethren in the best circuits in England, and not more so,—taking into the account the small reductions which had been effected. He entered into some details to show that, in consequence of the state of the currency, there was little if any difference in value between the amount paid when he was a missionary and the present scale. Some further conversation took place, and a Committee was appointed to meet in London after the Conference on the subject of the memorial.

A memorial was received from the Sherborne Circuit, recommending a day of public thanksgiving for the success granted to the Connexion during the past year, and condemnatory of the slanders which had been circulated throughout the Connexion. It was directed to be duly acknowledged.

EXPULSION OF MESSRS. DUNN AND GRIFFITH.

The final consideration of the cases of Messrs. Dunn and William Griffith occupied a considerable portion of the sitting on Saturday. These ministers appeared before the Conference, and heard read the report of the Committee on their cases. They then requested to be furnished with copies of the report for careful and deliberate consideration.

tion. At that time, the report, though read in the Conference, had not been formally adopted, and their request was declined, unless they would pledge themselves not to make public use of the report, inasmuch as it might be subjected, before its adoption, to some modifications. At a subsequent sitting, it was again read, and formally adopted. The objection to supplying copies being thus removed, it was resolved that the request should be complied with, and that their final answer should be given to the Conference at the first sitting on the following day. Instead of appearing, they forwarded a joint letter assigning their reasons for refusing to submit to the requirements of the Conference. There being, therefore, no other alternative, they were both solemnly expelled from the Connexion. Only one hand was held up against the expulsion of Mr. Dunn, and not one against that of Mr. Griffith. Pursuant to the previous decisions of the Conference, Messrs. Walton and George were severally admonished from the chair, in a very faithful but affectionate address.

The following is a summary of the proceedings in connection with the expulsion of Messrs. Samuel Dunn, and William Griffith, jun., substantially as given in the *Wesleyan Times*.

On Tuesday, at half-past ten in the forenoon, Messrs. Dunn and Griffith, after refusing to answer the questions, retired from the Conference. We understand they were moved to this step by the fact that Messrs. Everett and Burdsall, under similar circumstances, were required to do so.

They were then kept in suspense from that period until noon on Thursday, when they were informed that Mr. Bromley had, but without their knowledge, presented a request, that they, with himself and Mr. George, might be permitted to state to the Committee their reasons for not answering the President's question, the opportunity for doing which had been denied them in the Conference.

At three o'clock on Thursday they attended the Committee, and found present the President, the following Ex-Presidents—R. Newton, J. Bunting, R. Reece, G. Marsden, J. Dixon, W. Atherton, John Scott, J. Hannah, and S. Jackson; four Chairmen of Districts—G. Taylor, W. Burt, R. Young, and H. Davies; and three members of the Manchester Minor District Meeting—W. Naylor, J. Crowther, and G. Osborn.

After prayer, Messrs. Dunn, Griffith, Bromley, and George were requested to retire until the Committee had determined on the mode of procedure. In a short time they were informed that they were to be admitted and examined separately. Mr. Samuel Dunn was the first called on. He stated to the Committee his objections to the proceedings towards Mr. Everett, and answered several questions which were put to him. After being before the Committee for an hour, he retired.

Mr. W. Griffith, jun., was next called, and was kept before the Committee for half an hour, when a similar course was adopted towards him and by him.

The sitting of the Committee was then continued from five until eight, during which time Messrs. Bromley and George were called in separately, and made their respective statements.

On Friday morning last Messrs. Dunn and Griffith were summoned to appear at the Conference at ten o'clock. They met, but were not called to its bar till after twelve o'clock.

The SECRETARY then read a long string of resolutions; and the President inquired if they had any observations to make on the document that had been read.

Messrs. Dunn and Griffith requested to be furnished with a copy, that they might give the whole their careful and prayerful consideration. This request was refused, on the ground that they might afterwards publish the document.

Mr. BROMLEY then came forward and said, from the nature of the report of the Committee, and the apparent determination of the Conference to proceed arbitrarily towards his two ministerial brethren, he was determined to share their fate, and should meet the Committee no more, nor protest any further to the Conference against the illegal and unjust rule of 1835.

Many attempts were then made to induce him to meet the Committee, and especially Dr. Bunting, at three o'clock, and he at last yielded.

Messrs. Dunn and Griffith were then required to be present in the Conference at five o'clock. They were in their place at the time. Not a word was uttered on their case before eight o'clock.

The SECRETARY then read the resolutions of the Committee.

Their adoption was moved by the Rev. W. VEVERS, and seconded by the Rev. J. P. HASWELL. The motion was unanimously carried by the Conference.

Messrs. DUNN and GRIFFITH then stated, that, as the Resolutions possessed much of the character of an indictment, and contained charges of which they had had no notice, they thought they had a claim to a copy of them, on the ground of both British and Wesleyan law and usage.

This demand was resisted for a while.

It was then moved by Mr. W. M. Bunting, and seconded by Mr. John Bowers, that the request be granted.

Dr. BUNTING said that he was not afraid of their being published, that the Conference would most likely soon give them to the public, and that they had better be furnished without a vote of the Conference, or any pledge, as to the use that should be made of them.

The whole Conference instantly followed Dr. Bunting's view.

Messrs. Dunn and Griffith were then desired to be prepared, at nine o'clock on Saturday morning, to say whether they accepted the conditions of the Conference, with the distinct understanding that, if they did not, they would be expelled.

In the evening copies of the Committee's Report were sent to them.

They declined attendance in the morning, but sent the following reply:

To the President of the Wesleyan Conference assembled in Manchester.

Mr. PRESIDENT,—On the Report of the Committee to whom the consideration of our cases was referred by the Conference, we make the following observations:—

I. That the Report states that we “contumaciously refused to answer certain questions solemnly proposed to us in the Conference.” This is incorrect. The *only* question which we refused to answer was, “Are you the writer or author of the ‘Fly-Sheets?’” Our *reasons* for this refusal were:—

1. Because for two years we had refused to be tested on the subject; and during this time it was never intimated to us that we were guilty of contumacy, or of the violation of any law of Methodism.

2. Because the Conference is now making *obligatory* what at first was only *permissive*; and the permission naturally ceased, as the Conference of 1848 had not authorized the Rev. George Osborn to re-issue the Declaration.

3. Because the "rules and usages" of which the rule of 1835 is said to be declaratory, have not been pointed out to us, neither do we believe in their existence.

4. Because the recent application of the law of 1835, in the expulsion of the Rev. James Everett, is NOVEL, inquisitorial, and despotic, opposed to the minutes of 1792 and 1807, to Mr. Wesley's writings, and to the law of Christ, Matt. xviii. 15—17.

5. Because its application in the case of Mr. Everett does not come within either of the objects for which, according to Mr. Grindrod, it was intended.

6. Because, as we consider an answer to the question put to us by the President would make us a party to what we deem an illegal, unjust, and unscriptural expulsion of a ministerial brother, we were fully justified in declining to answer a question founded on a law justly designated as "steeped in apostacy and unbelief," "false in its statements and wicked in its principles," and "flying in the face of the word and authority of the Son of God."

II. The permission to attend before the Committee, if "asked on our behalf," was not asked at our request, or with our knowledge.

III. The Report states that we "have recently pursued divisive and agitating measures." This we most positively deny; nor has any attempt been made to prove the charge.

IV. The Report insinuates that inquiries have been made of those brethren only "against whom there appeared to be a reasonable and sufficient ground of doubt or suspicion!" whereas it is notorious that questions on the subject have been put to brethren against whom no such ground of doubt or suspicion could exist.

V. The Report affirms that *The Wesleyan Times* is "notoriously hostile to the principles and interests of our Connexion, and that we, by our communications to that paper, have been deeply committed to criminal agitation;" whereas no evidence has been given that such is the character of *The Wesleyan Times*, nor of the number or nature of our communications to that paper; whilst, on the other hand, the Conference must be aware that the *Watchman* has contained the vilest slanders on several of its ministers, including the Rev. Joseph Fowler, when secretary of the Conference, and yet there has been no condemnation expressed of the ministers who have sent communications to it.

VI. The Report states that the *Wesley Banner* is "avowedly designed, by means of appeals to the public, to correct the administration of Methodism, thus attempting to supersede the authority of District Meetings and the Conference!" whereas its design has been to promote "the purity, conservation, extension, and perpetuation of Methodism," and not a line can be found in it expressive of an intention to supersede our constituted authorities. Moreover, it was commenced in defence of brethren who had been assailed in the *Watchman*, and not before the appearance of the calumnious "Papers on Wesleyan Matters:" a publication issued under the sanction of the Book Committee and of the Mission-house.

VII. The Report states that we "have manifested general sympathy with the spirit and object of the "Fly Sheets." To what this refers we are at a loss to conjecture, except it be our objection to the unconstitutional process employed to discover the author or authors.

VIII. It will thus be seen that the Report contains several serious charges affecting our "moral, Christian, and ministerial character;" but of these

we have had *no notice*, nor has any opportunity, therefore, been afforded us to disprove them.

IX. As the CONDITIONS on which our connection with the Conference is made to depend, imply great guilt on our part, while we are not conscious of *any* in this matter—insinuate our alienation from the body, while we have not ceased to give full proof of our ardent attachment to the Methodism of John Wesley, and are of so degrading a character as if complied with, would necessarily counteract our ministerial influence and usefulness, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SUBMIT TO SO UNRIGHTEOUS A JUDGEMENT.

We are, Mr. President, very faithfully, yours,

SAMUEL DUNN,
WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

Manchester, August 11, 1840.

The letter was read amid profound silence, and was listened to with great attention.

The Expulsion of Messrs. Dunn and Griffith was then put and carried unanimously, with the exception of Mr. Bromley, who spoke a few words and lifted up his hand against it.

Mr. WALTON was then called to the bar, and received a very severe censure from the President, but replied not.

Mr. GEORGE was also summoned, and censured with equal severity, and replied, that, though he submitted to the decision of the Conference, he was not conscious that he had merited such a reproof.

The second reading of the stations was then resumed and concluded, after which the Chairmen of Districts were elected, and the Conference adjourned, at three o'clock, till Monday.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13TH.

On the re-assembling of the Conference this morning, the Pastoral Address to the Societies was read by the Rev. W. L. THORNTON, and unanimously adopted.

RECENT MEASURES OF CONFERENCE.

The PRESIDENT stated the substance of several communications which he had received, relative to the expulsion of Messrs. Everett, Dunn, and Griffith, and which showed that the parties from whom they proceeded had been misled by erroneous representations. This led to a general conversation, in the course of which many members declared their opinion, that it was desirable to counteract misrepresentations in such cases, and on the general acts of Conference in relation to them, through some authorized medium. In the course of this conversation, the services which had been rendered to the Connexion by the *Watchman* Newspaper, in upholding its constitutional principles and discipline, were acknowledged by many eminent Ministers; and it was the general opinion, that the time had come to give some public expression of the sense entertained of its services. Ultimately, a resolution was adopted to the effect, that the Conference should record its grateful sense of the services rendered to the Connexion, by the *Watchman* Newspaper, during the last fourteen years; and that, whilst declining all responsibility as to its political opinions, and without pledging itself for the correctness of every sentiment in relation to Methodist affairs, it recognised it as a vehicle of Wesleyan intelligence which was free from those grave objections to which other publica-

tions, professing the same aims, had been found liable, and recommended it accordingly to the support of the Societies and friends. It was also resolved, that a Committee should be appointed to publish such Documents relating to the recent cases of Expulsion, as might be deemed necessary to afford correct information to the public.

The Financial Secretaries of the several Districts were appointed; and it was agreed, that further changes desired in the Stations should be reserved until all the unsettled cases could be considered together.

DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION:

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT brought this subject before the Conference. At that late period, they would probably not deem it necessary that all the Minutes which had been read in the Preparatory Committee should be again read. (Cries of "No, no.") If that was their opinion, he would at once bring forward the resolutions which had been recommended by the mixed Committee on the subject. The Rev. J. G. WILSON read the resolutions, the whole of which were adopted, and without discussion, except in one instance where the Rev. W. M. BUNTING took occasion to complain, that the Committee had not objected to the Government measure for the support of Roman Catholic Schools. Mr. SCOTT was heard in reply,—apparently to the general satisfaction of the Conference; and Dr. BUNTING observed, that he went entirely with the plan adopted, and that he could not refuse to do good while he lived for fear of some possible evils which might occur after his death.

DECEASE OF A SUPERNUMERARY MINISTER.

Dr. BUNTING said, he had to communicate the painful and distressing intelligence, just received from Mr. Hoole, of the death, from cholera, of the Rev. Thomas Harrison, formerly a Missionary in the West Indies, and lately a Supernumerary in the Fifth London Circuit. The letter was a very affecting one. Several other members of the family had previously died, from the same awful disease, including his aunt and wife. Mr. Harrison then "set his house in order,"—made up some packages for the West India Missions,—and sent one to Mr. Hoole, containing a cheque of £250 for the Mission Fund, with the words—"All his right, T. H." The next day, he went to Hampstead, and there died! A servant, as well as another person in the house had since also died!

Several Committees on Chapel and other affairs were appointed to meet in the afternoon; and the Conference adjourned.

AUTOGRAPH RELIC.

At the Evening Sitting, the Rev. GEORGE OSBORN, addressing the President, said—I have the pleasure to offer to the acceptance of the Conference an interesting relic—the Hymn Book used by our venerable Founder, and written with his own hand. It is presented by Mr. SAMUEL HIGHFIELD, son of the Rev. George Highfield, on condition, that it be preserved at Woodhouse Grove School, and that visitors shall see and have access to it.

The Rev. WM. LORD moved, and Mr. OSBORN seconded, that the respectful thanks of the Conference be presented to Mr. Highfield for his interesting and valuable present, and that a letter, conveying these thanks *be officially* addressed to him,—which was cordially agreed to.

The further revision of the Stations was then entered upon, and occupied a considerable time.

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

The Report of the Committee on this case was read by the Secretary, and, after a short discussion, adopted by the Conference. It stated, in effect, that Mr. Bromley disavowed having written or communicated anything to any party with the intention of its appearing in the "Fly-Sheets" or in the "Vindication;"—that he admitted that some sentiments, which he had expressed in correspondence, had been, in substance, inserted in the latter publication;—that he had remonstrated with his correspondent, against the tone and spirit of that work;—and that he had engaged to give the Conference no further trouble as to his peculiar views of the declaratory rules of 1835. After such explanations and engagement, on Mr. Bromley's behalf, the Committee recommended that no further measures should be taken by the Conference.

CONTINGENT FUND.

A conversation arose, occasioned by a proposition made by Mr. Scott, respecting the circumstances of the married men for whom no houses had been provided. Mr. Scott thought that some additional grant ought to be made to those who were in such circumstances, and had travelled nine years or upwards. Mr. CUSWORTH would prefer an effort to obtain additional houses: he was in favour of setting apart £500 a year to aid circuits in this object: ten houses additional per annum, might thus be obtained. Dr. BUNTING felt disposed to approve of that idea, and thought the time would soon come when a general effort must be made, after the example of the Free Church of Scotland, to get manses or residences. No decision was adopted by the Conference.

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

The Report of the Institution was brought up by the Rev. J. CUSWORTH, and the several resolutions, agreed to be recommended to the Conference by the Preparatory Committee, were unanimously adopted.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14.

AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The SECRETARY read the Address of the late General Conference of this Body.

Dr. NEWTON moved its reception by the Conference; and the motion, being seconded by the Rev. G. MARSDEN, was unanimously agreed to.

The Answer to the Address was then read by the Secretary.

A very interesting, and upon the whole satisfactory, conversation was originated by some inquiries of Dr. BUNTING, addressed to Dr. Dixon, in order to ascertain whether there was any increasing feeling of kindness manifested towards the negro and coloured members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, by their white brethren of a kindred Church. In this conversation, Dr. DIXON and Dr. ALDER took a leading part, and the former suggested that a congratulatory paragraph should be inserted in the Address, on the position which the Methodist Episcopal Church North had taken on the subject of slavery. Dr. BUNTING supported the proposition; and with this addition, the address was agreed to.

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

A report on this subject was presented by a Committee appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the expense of the proposed enlargements;

and different suggestions were offered on the best mode of meeting that expense. After some discussion, in which Messrs. Prest, Cusworth, Jobson, Scott, and others took part, the report was modified and adopted.

The final revision of the stations occupied the Conference till twelve o'clock, at which hour, on the motion of Mr J. FARRAR, they were confirmed by vote.

ANNUITANT SOCIETY.

The Conference then resolved itself into a meeting of the Preachers' Annuitant Society. The President was requested to take the Chair; and the transaction of the Society's business occupied the remainder of the Morning Sitting. We regret to learn, that, in consequence of the increasing claims on this Society, the Yearly Subscription of the Members is to be somewhat augmented.

SHETLAND ISLES.

At the Evening Sitting, the Rev. JOHN STEPHENSON was requested to report on the state of the work in the Shetland Islands, and the observations and views which he might deem it desirable to present to the Conference as the result of his visit to those islands, by the appointment of Conference. He stated that there are 17 Chapels in those islands,—that the brethren appointed to labour there had, during the last year, been increasingly diligent, and zealous,—and that, as the result, the Societies had been revived and increased. The Brethren were stated to have so conducted themselves as to deserve the confidence and affection of the Conference. On the motion of the Rev. G. OSBORN, the cordial thanks of the Conference were presented to Mr. Stephenson for his valuable services in the fulfilment of his mission. Several resolutions were also adopted with reference to the work in those islands, and Mr. Stephenson was appointed to visit them again next spring. The Report of the Chapel Advice Committee was read and adopted.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Messrs. F. A. WEST, W. W. STAMP, and W. BARTON were appointed a Committee, to draw up a suitable form for the order of business in District Meetings;—to be submitted to the next Conference.

DEPUTATIONS.

The PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and EX-PRESIDENT were appointed to attend the next Irish Conference. The EX-PRESIDENT and Mr. G. OSBORN to visit Scotland. The PRESIDENT and Mr. P. M'OWAN to visit North Wales. Messrs NAYLOR and RIGG to visit South Wales. Dr. RICHEY was appointed to be President of the next Canadian Conference, and the Rev. JOHN RYERSON Co-Delegate.

A day for spiritual conversation and prayer on the work of God, was directed to be set apart in connexion with the financial District Meetings.

AUXILIARY FUND.

The Report of this Fund was presented by the Rev. JOHN SCOTT. The subscriptions in the Classes have increased,—but the private subscriptions in June are not equal to what might be expected for so excellent an object. The usual resolutions and appointments were agreed to. A resolution expressive of the grateful sense entertained by the Conference of the increased support given to this Fund in the Classes, was adopted,—and also

one recommending additional efforts to increase the private subscriptions in June.

G. R. CHAPPELL, Esq., was appointed one of the Treasurers, in the place of the late JAMES WOOD, Esq., to whose memory a deserved tribute of respect was paid by the adoption of a Special Minute.

The Committees of several Funds were then appointed.

A long conversation then ensued on the subject of teetotalism. Various minor matters were then despatched, and about nine o'clock the reading of the Conference Journal commenced. It occupied fully an hour.

After singing and prayer, this memorable Conference closed about ten o'clock.

The next Conference will be held in London on Wednesday, the 31st July, 1850.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

OF THE METHODIST MINISTERS IN THE CONNEXION ESTABLISHED BY THE LATE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A. M., IN REFERENCE TO RECENT IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND ACTS OF DISCIPLINE.

*Published by the Authority of the Conference.**

ADVERTISEMENT.—Aware that previously to its annual assembly, and during its session, various misrepresentations of its proceedings were in circulation; and that, in all probability, erroneous statements would continue to be put forth, in some cases for want of better information;—and considering that the Ministers and faithful people of the Connexion have a claim to be supplied with correct and authentic statements concerning its decisions and acts of discipline in cases of so great interest and importance as some which have been recently determined, the Conference gave directions for the immediate publication of such extracts from the records of its proceedings, and such explanations respecting them, as may at once remove doubt and uncertainty from all candid minds.

I.

In order to a correct understanding of recent occurrences, it will be necessary to speak shortly of the transactions of some preceding years. The attempts which have been made to disturb the Connexion by means of anonymous hostile publications may be traced back to 1844 or 1845, when the first "Fly Sheet" appeared. No. II. was published in 1846, and a second edition of No. I. and No. III. in 1847. These papers were characterized by intense bitterness of feeling in reference to certain excellent ministers, whom they described as "indolent," "selfish," "artful," "ambitious," and "tyrannical;" and also by other personalities, so grossly offensive and libellous, that the parties issuing them did not dare to affix the name of either printer or publisher. Not content with endeavouring to damage the character of individuals who had hitherto been regarded with the highest esteem, the writers attacked the administration of the affairs of the Connexion in general. They declared that its resources were perverted to uphold a system of favouritism, oppression, and extravagance;—that many of the public acts of the Conference pro-

* This document has been prepared and issued by the Committee referred to at the top of page 138.

ceeded from corrupt motives, or were of a mischievous tendency; and while suggesting extensive changes in its system of proceeding, and representing the members of Conference as enslaved, and longing for emancipation, they exhorted them to vigorous and united efforts to shake off the unhallowed yoke. The certain and obvious tendency—not to say the avowed design—of these publications, was to destroy the mutual confidence upon which our Connexion is based, and to subvert, or at least greatly to impede the operations of, our several institutions.

At first it was hoped that the notorious falsehood and excessive virulence of these papers would render them comparatively harmless, and they were therefore suffered to proceed unnoticed. But in course of time this hope proved not to have been well founded; and the silence of the parties concerned was interpreted as significant of approval on the one part, and conscious guilt on the other. The Conference of 1847 therefore spoke plainly and decisively by adopting, with only *two* dissentients, of whom Mr. Samuel Dunn was one, the following resolution:—

Certain anonymous papers, bearing no name either of the authors or printers, having been circulated in our Connexion during the last year, which contain many serious imputations on the integrity and disinterestedness of several of our senior ministers, and other official members of the Conference, we feel it our duty to express our solemn conviction that the spirit in which such publications originate is entirely at variance with the law of Christ; and that the brethren thus wickedly and slanderously attacked deserve our sympathy and unabated confidence. And with reference to the Rev. Dr. Bunting and the Rev. Dr. Newton, in particular, the Conference gladly takes this opportunity of re-asserting those sentiments of affectionate respect which it has already more than once expressed in its published resolutions, particularly in the minutes of 1833 and 1835."

Many now believed that this strong expression of opinion would put an end to the agitation; but the series of anonymous papers was still carried on, and a new edition of the whole was advertised for public sale in the spring of the present year. In the meantime circumstances occurred which led to the discovery of one of the contributors to these justly offensive publications. The Rev. D. Walton was accused before a Minor District Meeting, of having been cognizant, and concerned in the preparation of them, and that charge was sufficiently established. The Annual District Meeting confirmed the proceedings of the Minor District Meeting, and recommended them to the adoption of the Conference.

The Conference, after hearing all the documents relating to the case, and the evidence adduced at the Minor District Meeting, proceeded to hear Mr. Walton's appeal. It had been before ruled that the *right* to an appeal had been forfeited by his refusal to enter into the subject at the May District Meeting; but, as a matter of favour, it was most cheerfully conceded to him. In the course of his address to the Conference, Mr. Walton manifested a very different spirit from that which had characterized his defence before the District Committees. He expressed his regret at the continuance of the system of anonymous slander among us, and at the use which had been made of his Manuscript by the publication of it in the "Fly Sheets," and stated that he altogether disapproved of the spirit in which the "Fly Sheets" were written,—and that the time was *come when*, in his opinion, they ought to be put down, and *must* be put down; and that he was willing to assist the Conference in putting them down, so far as he could with a good conscience do so; and also to provide

that his brethren should not, in future, be troubled with any complaints of this nature, in reference to him.

Under these circumstances, the Conference was willing to believe that it might be sufficient to adopt the Resolutions of the Manchester District Meeting, though they had originally been framed with reference to the private and personal rather than to the public and connexional aspect, of **MR. WALTON'S CASE**. These Resolutions were as follows:—

1. That this meeting expresses its high estimate of the care, patience, and impartiality, with which the members of the Minor District Meeting have investigated this painful subject, and its grateful satisfaction in the christian spirit and ability with which the Minutes and other documents of that meeting have been prepared.

2. That this meeting approves and accepts the report of the Minor District Meeting; and, having entire confidence in the justice of the conclusions which that meeting has recorded, recommends to the Conference the adoption of these conclusions, and the recommendations thereto appended, viz:—

(1) That he (Mr. Walton) be solemnly admonished from the Chair, by the President of the next Conference.

(2) That he be declared to be disqualified, for the present, for being the Superintendent of a Circuit.

The adoption of these Resolutions was moved by the Rev. Richard Reece, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Dixon, and carried, with only three dissentients, viz., Messrs. Dunn, R. Harrison, and William Griffith, jun.

II.

The lucid and impressive observations which have already been given through the press, by the report of the speech which the President first addressed to the Conference after his election, and also of his remarks on introducing the "Examination of Character," convey such felicitous explanations of the principles by which the proceedings of the Conference have from the beginning been regulated,* that it is thought the following extracts from them will form an appropriate and illustrative introduction to the documents next presented.

[The observations of the President here referred to will be found at pages 55 and 56, and 66 and 67 of this Report. The official document gives at length the minute of the Conference of 1777 (misprinted 1775 at page 67) which was quoted by the President. It is as follows:]

Q. 6.—Are there any objections to any of our preachers?

A. Yes. It is objected that most of them are not called of God to preach. This deserves our serious consideration. In the Large Minutes we ask, How shall we try those who think they are called of God to preach?

Q. 7.—Is this method of trial sufficient—can we find a better? Weigh this matter impartially.

A. We cannot find any better method, any more scriptural, or more rational.

Q. 8.—But suppose they were called once, have not many of them forfeited their calling?

A. Examine them one by one, and whoever has any objection or doubt,

* These principles have been constantly acted on, not only in the Conference, but in all its District Committees, from the beginning; and the parties who now object to the application of them have formerly submitted, without demur, to answer such questions as have been proposed to them; and must have repeatedly witnessed the application of the same principles to others, both in respect to points of doctrine and discipline.

concerning any one, let him now speak without any disguise or reserve, or for ever hold his peace.—*Minutes*, Vol. i. pp. 128, 129.

III.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE CASES OF THE REV. J. EVERETT AND THE REV. J. BURDSALL.

1. The Conference re-asserts its general authority, and the general authority of the several District Meetings,—an authority in full accordance with the ancient rules and usages of the Connexion, and supported especially by the minutes of 1777 (Quest. 8, page 129, vol. i.), and the Declaratory Resolutions of the Conference in 1835 (Quest. 23, pages 549, 550, vol. vii.),—to require a frank and brotherly answer from any minister in the body, for the satisfaction of his fellow labourers, on any question seriously affecting the peace, unity, and order of the Connexion.

2. In the exercise of this undoubted right, the Conference deemed it to be its solemn duty to God, and to our body, to put a brotherly question to Mr. Everett—which question he positively and peremptorily refused to answer, expressing his refusal in terms, and in a tone, justly offensive. A similar question was put to Mr. Burdsall, which he also, though in a very different manner, declined to answer.

3. Unwilling to proceed in matters of so great importance without calm and forbearing deliberation, the Conference postponed the further consideration of them until nine o'clock the next morning, that Mr. Everett might have time and opportunity to re-consider the determination which he avowed, not to purge himself at once, by a frank denial, if innocent, from the suspicions reasonably, and on much presumptive and circumstantial evidence, generally entertained respecting his guilty connexion with, or concern in, the authorship, editorship, compilation, or distribution of the anonymous printed papers intitled "Fly Sheets." It was desired that Mr. Burdsall also should have time allowed him for further thought and reflection.

4. For this purpose, a deputation, consisting of our brethren Messrs. Joseph Cusworth and William Vevers, was sent by the Conference to Messrs. Everett and Burdsall, to signify to them that the Conference had postponed the further consideration of their cases until the next morning, that they might, as above stated, review their declared purposes, and that the Conference invited them to attend its sitting at the hour appointed.

5. But Mr. Everett returned an answer, in which Mr. Burdsall concurred, explicitly refusing to attend, or to reply to any enquiries.

Upon a deliberate and careful review of these cases, the Conference determines as follows:—

1. That, considering that in its own conscientious judgement, and in the expressed opinion of many of our judicious people, a decisive check ought immediately to be given to the wicked, agitating, and divisive proceedings which have been lately pursued by the publication of the "Fly Sheets,"—as well as of other kindred productions,—and considering also, that when Mr. Everett had the fairest opportunity afforded to him by this Conference of purging himself from the strong and generally prevalent suspicion of his being a partaker in such proceedings, he contumaciously refused to do it, the Conference feels it now to be its painful but imperative duty, to "expel and put out" Mr. James Everett, from "being a member of the Conference, or from being in connection therewith," but accompanies this act of necessary discipline with the hope and prayer,

that it may please God to bring him to a better mind, and guide him into a different course of action.*

2. That, with respect to Mr. John Burdsall, it is with unaffected grief that the Conference has heard his refusal to answer the question which has now been propounded to him,—a refusal which the Conference must strongly censure and condemn. But, taking into consideration Mr. Burdsall's former character and services, his advanced age, and the mental and physical weakness which he himself pleads, the Conference refrains from any further exercise of discipline in his case; yet it earnestly and affectionately admonishes him to abstain from all divisive proceedings, and to disconnect himself entirely from those by whom such proceedings are carried on, or encouraged.

IV.

CASE OF MR. J. C. GEORGE.

The Conference received the following Report of a Special Committee to whom the consideration of the case of Mr. George was referred:—viz. I. That John C. George having refused, in the presence of the Conference, to answer certain questions which were officially put to him from the chair, and having had the opportunity of meeting the Special Committee for further explanation and enquiry, he repeated his refusal to answer, alleging that he felt himself bound in honour to stand or fall with other brethren who were in the same position with himself: but, 2ndly, That considering all the circumstances of the case, the Committee deem it sufficient to recommend that he should be reprovod from the chair, and declared to be disqualified at present for the office of superintendent of a circuit. The Conference resolved to adopt the Report of the Committee; and Mr. George was accordingly declared to be disqualified for the present for the office of superintendent, and was solemnly reprovod from the chair.

V.

CASE OF THE REV. SAMUEL DUNN.

At the Annual Meeting of the Nottingham and Derby District Committee, charges were preferred against Mr. Dunn to the effect, that by the publication of a periodical, intituled the *Wesley Banner*, he had contravened the laws and usages of the Connexion, endangered its peace and aspersed the character of a large majority of its Ministers. The District Committee state in their Minutes that it was in evidence before them, "that the tendency of this publication is to promote 'strifes and divisions,'—that it greatly 'endangers the peace' of our societies,—and is dividing our people both in sentiment and feeling, of which we have some painful instances in this District." They thereupon recommend Mr. Dunn to accept a proposition which had been made to him by Mr. Clarkson, to withdraw the charges, on condition that the periodical should be at once given up. But this recommendation, though strongly and affectionately urged upon Mr. Dunn, both from the Chair, and by almost every Minister

* In pursuance of this object, the former deputation (Messrs. Cusworth and Vevors) was again sent to Mr. Everett after the morning meeting of the Conference which he had been invited, but had refused, to attend, and before the Resolution above recited was proposed and carried, requesting him once more to present himself before the Conference, and respond to its inquiries. But he again positively declared that he would answer no question relating to the "Fly Sheets," and that he would not attend the Conference. He was, accordingly, expelled.

in the meeting, he positively declined to accept. The District Committee therefore having no alternative left to them, resolved that the *Wesley Banner* ought to be discontinued, and required Mr. Dunn immediately to suspend its publication. He again refused to do this, and appealed to the Conference against the proceedings of the Committee. The Conference received the appeal, and appointed a Committee to hear it. But when that Committee met, Mr. Dunn declined to appear; requesting to be informed from the President whether he was to consider himself as having incurred the penalty of suspension, *ipso facto*, by not having answered the questions of the Conference on another subject, on the preceding day. To this inquiry the President returned an answer in the negative. Still Mr. Dunn refused to attend the Committee; and as he thus declined to prosecute his appeal, the Conference unanimously resolved to confirm the proceedings of the District Committee in his case.

VI.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE CASES OF THE REV. MESSRS.
SAMUEL DUNN AND W. GRIFFITH, JUN.

The Conference after repeated enquiries and careful deliberation at various stages of its annual session, in reference to the cases of Mr. S. Dunn and Mr. William Griffith, jun., referred the same to a Special Committee, whose Report having been received and solemnly considered, was adopted as follows: viz.

"It was stated that certain questions were solemnly proposed in the Conference by the President to Samuel Dunn and William Griffith, jun., which they contumaciously refused to answer. Yet, in conformity with the permission asked on their behalf, and granted to them by the Conference, these brethren were allowed to appear before the Committee, for the purpose of stating any thing which they might wish to say on the subject of their refusal to satisfy the Conference as to their innocence in the matter of the "Fly-Sheets." And besides being heard and conversed with at length upon that point, they were further questioned and reasoned with, not only as to their past conduct, but also as to the security they were prepared to give for their abstinence in future from the divisive and agitating measures which they have recently pursued. But nothing satisfactory was elicited. And their refusal to submit to the brotherly enquiry deemed by the Conference to be absolutely necessary for the explanation of their conduct in this business was peremptorily repeated.

The Committee, therefore, after the solemn and careful consideration of all the circumstances of each of these two cases, unanimously adopted the following conclusions:

1. That the aggravated sin which has been committed in the body by the repeated publication and avowed defence of the "Fly-Sheets," and the attempt which has been made to hide the authors and abettors of the evil under the veil of a concerted secrecy, have made it the imperative duty of the Conference to avail itself of its original and constantly exercised right of proposing such brotherly enquiries as it may deem necessary for its satisfaction in reference to any of the brethren against whom there appears to be a reasonable and sufficient ground of doubt or suspicion.

2. That the course which has for some time past been pursued by Samuel Dunn and William Griffith, jun., in their communications to the *Wesleyan Times*—a paper notoriously hostile to the principles and interests of our Connexion—and in the publication of the *Wesley Ban-*

mer* as the organ of a small minority, avowedly designed by means of appeals to the public to "correct" the administration of Methodism, thus attempting to supersede the authority of the District Meetings, and of the Conference, to which any alleged grievance ought to be referred: together with the general sympathy which has been manifested on their part with the spirit and objects of the "Fly Sheets," have furnished ample evidence of their having been deeply committed to that criminal agitation by which the authors of the "Fly Sheets," and the *Wesleyan Times* in particular, have so wickedly endeavoured to subvert the original principles of the Connexion;—and that the Conference would therefore have been pre-eminently unfaithful both to them, and to its own solemn trust, if it had longer refrained in these particular cases from enquiries such as those to which they have been recently subjected.

3. That their declining, as they have done, to answer questions which were officially proposed to them in the Conference by the President, in a matter so gravely affecting their religious and ministerial character, involves a contumacy on their part utterly at variance with their own original and constantly repeated pledges of attachment to the discipline of the Connexion, and equally at variance with the law of Christ, and which cannot be tolerated and connived at without the utmost hazard to the purity as well as to the peace of the body.

4. That under these circumstances, the following are, in the judgement of this Committee, the only conditions on which the continuance of Samuel Dunn and William Griffith, jun., in connection with the Conference can be properly or safely recommended, or anything like justice can be done to the true merits of the case and the interests of the Connexion.

First.—That they be reprov'd from the chair of the Conference and be considered to be disqualified at present for being Circuit Superintendents.

Second.—That they fully satisfy the Conference, if not as to their recent conduct in the matters in question, yet, at least, as it respects the course they will pursue in future, and that for this purpose, they give to the Conference an absolute and unequivocal pledge of their resolution at once to discontinue their publication of the *Wesley Banner* and their encouragement of other hostile and offensive publications; and that they also pledge themselves to abstain from taking part directly or indirectly, in any agitating or divisive proceedings, which may be pursued by others, either as to recent acts of discipline, or as to the settled principles and laws of the Connexion.

5. That failing these conditions, they leave the Conference no alternative but that each of them be forthwith put away from being a member of the Conference or in connection therewith."

A copy of the above report was furnished to Mr. Dunn and Mr. Griffith respectively, and time was allowed them for the solemn and prayerful consideration which they were earnestly exhorted to give to a matter of so great importance.

By a joint letter to the President, which was read to the Conference at its next sitting, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Griffith stated that they were *not* prepared to submit to the conditions on which their continued connection with the Conference was made to depend. The Conference thereupon resolved (Mr. Bromley being the only dissentient) that Mr. Samuel Dunn, having stated in a letter to the President that he is not prepared to submit

* Mr. Griffith, in his interview with the Committee, distinctly and spontaneously stated that he was equally responsible with Mr. Dunn for the publication referred to.

to the conditions upon which the previous resolution in his case admitted of his remaining in connection with the Conference, he be now solemnly expelled and put away from being a member of the Conference or in connection therewith. It was then declared by the President that Mr. Samuel Dunn is accordingly expelled and put away from being a member of the Conference or in connection therewith.

A similar resolution was adopted, without a single dissident, in the case of Mr. William Griffith, jun., who was also officially declared to be accordingly expelled and put away from being a member of the Conference or in connection therewith.

Before the termination of its proceedings, the Conference unanimously adopted the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the Conference most affectionately and gratefully acknowledges the exemplary Christian temper which its President, the Rev. Thomas Jackson, has uniformly exhibited amidst the laborious and trying occurrences of its present sittings; the true principles of Methodism which he has so ably and faithfully expounded and maintained; the strict impartiality which he has observed in all cases; and the various other services which he has rendered. The Conference presents to him its unanimous and most cordial thanks, and renews the expression of its entire confidence in him—offering its prayers to Almighty God that He may preserve His servant in health and peace, and grant him His special blessing in all the duties and engagements of the coming year.

In presenting this short series of documents, it is impossible to refrain from the expression of an earnest hope that the conclusions which have been arrived at, with remarkable and almost unexampled unanimity on the part of the Conference, will commend themselves to the approbation of all who calmly and deliberately consider them, and are concerned to promote the true interests of Methodism; and that the ministers and people of our beloved Connexion, now that so many occasions of strife have ceased, will address themselves with new diligence and zeal, and with a more abundant blessing from on high, to their great, primary, and all-important work of spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land, and throughout the world.

Manchester, August 17th, 1849.

STATIONS OF THE PREACHERS.

(Official Copy.)

THOMAS JACKSON, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

[N.B.—Each of the places mentioned in these stations is the head of a circuit. The Superintendent and other minister or ministers stationed in or appointed to the several circuits undermentioned, is and are appointed by the Conference to preach, and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline, in each and every of the Wesleyan Methodist chapels already erected, or to be erected, within each circuit respectively, within the space of twelve calendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner as to him or them shall seem proper; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent minister.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

I.—THE LONDON DISTRICT.

Thomas Jackson (President of the Conference), Chairman of the District—Israel Holgate, Financial Secretary.

First London (City-road, &c.)—Joseph Fowler, Israel Holgate, Joseph Hargreaves, F. J. Jobson, J. G. Wilson; Joseph Chapman, Joseph Brookhouse, Joshua Fielden, Isaac Phenix, sen., Seth Morris, William Brocklehurst, supernumeraries. George Cubitt and Wm. L. Thornton, M.A., are our editors; John Mason is our book-steward. Jabez Bunting, D.D., John Beecham, D.D., Robert Alder, D.D., and Elijah Hoole, are the general secretaries for our missions; Walter O. Croggan is the superintendent, under the direction of the Missionary Committee, of the Irish Missions and Schools.

Wesleyan Theological Institution—Dr. Bunting is re-appointed as the president of the institution. Southern branch, Richmond—Thomas Jackson, President of the Conference, theological tutor; Saml. Jackson, house governor; John Farrar, classical tutor; John D. Geden, assistant tutor. Northern branch, Didsbury—John Bowers, house governor; John Hannah, D.D., Secretary of the Conference, theological tutor; J. Crowther, classical tutor; Benjamin Hellier, assistant tutor.

Uxbridge—John W. Greeves. N.B. Brother Greeves shall act under the direction of the house governor at Richmond.

Second London (Great Queen-street, &c.)—John Lomas, George Maunder, William Davenport; Richard Reece, supernumerary.

Third London (Spitalfields, &c.)—Peter Duncan, Joseph Stinson, W. O. Booth, Theophilus Woolmer; John Chettle, James Baker, supernumeraries. Thames Mission—William A. Quick, who shall change once in each Sabbath with the ministers of the Third London circuit.

Fourth London (Southwark, &c.)—Timothy C. Ingle, Robert Thompson, Wilson Brailsford, Samuel Coley; Rt. Wheeler, Jas. Lynch, supers.

Fifth London (Lambeth, &c.)—John Hall, Thomas Pennington, David Hay, Luke Tyerman; Thomas Key, supernumerary.

Sixth London (Hinde-street, &c.)—Joseph Beaumont, M.D., Alexander Strachan, William Clegg, William Arthur; Joseph Sutcliffe, A.M., Joseph Lewis, William M. Bunting, John C. Leppington, supers.

Seventh London (Chelsea, &c.)—John Brown, 1st, George Scott, 1st; John Bicknell, supernumerary.

Eighth London (Islington, &c.)—John Scott, John Rattenbury, Thomas Vasey, Edward Lightwood, Michael C. Taylor; John Kershaw, sup.

Deptford—James J. Topham, John Lyth; Thomas Rogers, supernumerary. N.B. The superintendent resides at Greenwich.

Woolwich—Robert Newstead, Peter Prescott, jun.

Hammersmith—John Geden, George T. Perks.

- Croydon—James Rathbone, R. G. Badcock ; Edward Chapman, *sup.*
 Barking and Romford—Ed. Sacket, who shall change once in every four weeks, on the Lord's Day, with the ministers of the third London circuit.
 Leyton—William Burnett, who shall change twice in every quarter of a year, on the Lord's Day, with the ministers of the first and eighth London circuits. N.B. Bro. Burnett shall reside at Woodford, Essex.
 Ware and Bishop Stortford—George Hurst, William Lees.
 Cambridge—Joseph K. Tucker, Thomas S. Bowers, B.A.
 Windsor—Samuel Young, John Hebb ; John Nelson, supernumerary.
 Chelmsford—James Walton, Isaac Phenix, jun.
 Maldon—Joseph B. West, Francis T. Tranmer.
 Colchester—James Ray, George Blencowe.
 Manningtree—Thomas Jones, 1st, Frederick Payne, Robert S. Ellis.
 N.B. Brother Payne shall reside at Harwich.
 Ipswich—John Newton, Joseph Pechy, Edwin Fice ; George North, *sup.*
 N.B. Brother Pechy shall reside at Woodbridge, Suffolk.
 Hastings—Henry W. Williams, J. W. Close ; James Lancaster, *sup.*
 Sevenoaks—Samuel Lucas, 1st, Alexander T. James.
 Tunbridge Wells—Alex. Kessen, LL.D., Edwin Thorley, Thos. Wilkinson.
 Lewes and Eastbourne—Thomas Green, who shall change regularly with the ministers of the Brighton circuit.
 Brighton—Wm. Barton, John Harvard, John Jones, 4th. N.B. Brother Harvard shall reside at Worthing.
 St Alban's—Maurice Britton, Thomas Harding, Richard Woodfin. N.B. Brother Harding shall reside at Watford.
 Guildford and Alton—T. Shaw, Wm. Colborn, J. Eglinton. N.B. Brother Colborn shall reside at Alton, and Brother Eglinton at Godalming.
 Dorking and Horsham—John Owen, Joshua Mottram. N.B. Brother Mottram shall reside at Horsham.

II.—THE BEDFORD AND NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT.

- Benj. Andrew, LL.D., Chairman of the District—Thos Stephenson, *Financial Sec.*
 Bedford and Ampthill—Joseph Entwisle, Walter Coates, James Hedges ; Maximilian Wilson, William Dixon, supernumeraries.
 Leighton Buzzard—John Wevill, Charles Carter, Henry Banks. N.B. Brother Banks shall reside at Stewkley.
 Luton—Thomas Stephenson, Benjamin John.
 Dunstable—Peter Cooper, John Vanes ; Joseph Walker, supernumerary.
 St. Neot's—John D. Julian, John E. Cook.
 Biggleswade—Wright Shovelton, John W. Wilson.
 Hitchin—Thomas Dove, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the ministers of the Biggleswade circuit.
 Huntingdon—John Coates, John Tucker, John Moore.
 Northampton—Benjamin Andrews, LL.D., Charles Clay ; William Hinson, William Taylor, supernumeraries.
 Towcester—Thos. Pearson, 1st, Frederick T. Edmunds ; Wm. Mowatt, *sup.*
 Daventry—John Wood, 1st, William Ford, W. O. Aldom.
 Newport-Pagnell—John Richards, 2nd, James Hartle.
 Higham-Ferrars—Samuel H. Wardley, Henry Keet.
 Wellingborough—John Cullen, John W. Davies.
 Kettering—John Mann : Henry Fish, A.M., supernumerary.
 Market-Harborough—William Jewett, John Walters ; Richard Eland, *sen., sup.* N.B. Brother Walters shall devote every other Sabbath to the *Kettering circuit.*

Chatteris—William Griffith, sen., Thomas B. Goodwin.

Oundle—John Ingham, James Golding; Isaac Aldom, supernumerary.

III.—THE KENT DISTRICT.

Thomas Martin, Chairman of the District—John Crofts, Financial Secretary.

Canterbury—James Cooke, 1st, Gregory A. Page.

Faversham—Jesse Pilcher, Charles G. Turton.

Rochester—Thomas Martin, John Crofts, Benjamin Gregory.

Gravesend—John Hobkirk, H. J. Thomas, who shall reside at Dartford.

Sheerness—William Worth, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the ministers of the Rochester circuit.

Margate—Joseph Hollis, John G. Wilson, who shall reside at Ramsgate.

Dover—Thos. W. Smith, John Philp, Wm. B. Pope; James Jarrett, sup.

Deal—John Smith, 1st, Jabez Overton.

Rye—Robert Keyworth, John F. Moody.

Tenterden—John W. Dawson, Edward B. Pinder.

Ashford—Joseph Wilson, Henry Pollinger.

Sandhurst—Jabez Rought, Pascho Hoskins.

Maidstone—George H. Rowe, George Rowe.

Sittingbourne—Wm. Wedlock, who shall change on one Sunday in every four weeks with the ministers at Faversham.

IV.—THE NORWICH AND LYNN DISTRICT.

Wm. Sharpe, Chairman of the District—Samuel Tindall, Financial Secretary.

Norwich—Wm. Sharpe, Mw. T. Male, Jas. Wheeler; John Hanwell, sup.

Bungay—Samuel Trueman, John Livingstone; Wm. Edwards, 1st, sup.

North Walsham—James Jones, 1st, Charles Povah, Wm. Harley.

Yarmouth—Thos. Rowland, James Brownell; James Waller, sup.

Lowestoff—Francis S. Keeling, Thos. Batten; Wm. Welborne, sup.

Framlingham—Daniel Hateley, Abel Burgess.

Diss—Robt. Colman, Thos. Brumwell, Charles E. Woolmer; John Reynolds, 1st, supernumerary.

New Buckenham—Benjamin G. Mitchell, Henry Needle.

Bury St. Edmund's—John Sharman, George Elliott.

Holt—John M. Budden, Edward Fison.

Lynn—Samuel Tindall, Thornley Smith.

Swaffham—John Weatherstone, Wm. B. Dennis.

Downham—Wm. Baker, jun., George Smith, 1st.

Walsingham—Richard Tabraham, Wm. Baddiley.

Wisbeach—Reuben Partridge, T. Hughes, 2nd; Henry Cheverton, sup.

Thetford—Theophilus Pugh, Jos. Portrey, who shall reside at Methwold.

Mildenhall—Thos. Brothwood, Wm. Rodman; Thos. Newton, sup.

Ely—Joseph Midgley, Sampson Cock, Joseph Simpson.

V.—THE OXFORD DISTRICT.

Joseph Earnshaw, Chairman of the District—Charles Westlake, Financial Secretary.

Oxford—Joseph Earnshaw, Wm. Hopewell.

High Wycombe—John Booth, Thomas Withington.

Aylesbury—George F. Driver, James Sugden.

Witney—Charles Westlake, John Dowty.

Banbury—John Stevens, James Hughes.

Kington—Edward Bramford, who shall change on one Sunday in every month with the ministers at Banbury.

Newbury—Wm. Davies, 2nd, Thomas R. Jones.

Reading—Thos. Hodson, Geo. Hagen; Samuel Leigh, supernumerary.

Hungerford—Charles Williams, Uriah Butters, Charles Willis.

Watlington—Edmund Lockyer.

Thame—James Bartholomew. N.B. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks.

Brackley—John Pearce, Ebenezer Tovey, Samuel Robinson.

Chipping-Norton—Samuel Cooke, John T. Morley.

Swindon—Wm. Baker, sen., Alexander Puddicombe. N.B. Brother Puddicombe shall reside at Farringdon.

Wantage—Zephaniah Job, James Cook, 3rd. N.B. Brother Cook shall reside at Abingdon.

VI.—THE PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

Wm. M. Harvard, M.A., Chairman—John Knowles, 2nd, Financial Secretary.

Portsmouth—W. M. Harvard, A.M., J. Stanley, jun., John Crawshaw.

Gosport—George Beard, John Dawson.

Salisbury—Danl. Chapman, Wm. Hopkins; Wm. Tranter, sup.

Poole—James Cooke, 2nd, Richard Eland, jun.; James Hyde, sup.

Wimborne—John Fletcher, Peter Sharland; Thos. Fletcher, sup.

Ringwood—John Bonser, who shall change regularly on the Lord's day with the ministers at Poole.

Newport, Isle of Wight—Wm. Moister, John Parry, Henry B. Brown, William Hessel. N.B. Brother Parry shall reside at Cowes, Brother Brown at Ryde, and Brother Hessel at Ventnor.

Southampton and Winchester—John Knowles, 2nd, Edward Crofts, Geo. Turner, 2nd, James A. Macdonald; Richard Waddy, John Willis, supa. N.B. Brother Crofts shall reside at Romsey, and Brother Macdonald at Winchester.

Andover—Thomas Bolas, Jacob Turvey.

Chichester—John Knowles, 1st, William J. Dawson.

VII.—THE GUERNSEY DISTRICT.

John Shipman, Chairman of the District.

Guernsey (English)—Ninian Barr; Wm. Toase, supernumerary.

Guernsey (French)—John Renier, John de Putron.

Alderney—George Leale,

Jersey (English)—John Shipman, Wm. Worker; James Etchells, sup.

Jersey (French)—St. Helier's, Daniel Robin, Philip Tourgis; Amice Ollivier, supernumerary.

Jersey (St. Peter's)—Js. Hocart, who is the editor of the French Magazine.

VIII.—THE DEVONPORT DISTRICT.

John Smith, 2nd, Chairman—James Mowatt, Financial Secretary.

Devonport—John Smith, 2nd, Samuel W. Christophers, Henry Young.

Plymouth—James Mowatt, Thos. Wood, George T. Morrison; Thomas Bersey, Oliver Henwood, Joshua Wade, supernumeraries.

Launceston—Humphrey B. Trethewey, John W. Roberts.

Holdsworthy—John Allin, John Shipham.

Kilkhampton—John L. Sanders, Henry M. Holland.

Liskeard—Richard Moody, John Locke.

Callington—William Saunders, Thomas Chope.

Tavistock—Jn. Ryan, 2nd, Wm. Way; Nicholas Sibley, Henry Hicks, sups.

Camelford—Edward Branstons, Wm. David Tyack; John Robinson, sup.

N.B. Brother Tyack shall reside at Wadebridge.

Kingsbridge—Josiah Mycock, James Mitchell. N.B. Brother Mitchell shall reside at Modbury.

- Brixham**—John B. Alexander, Robert Rees. N.B. Robert Rees shall reside at Dartmouth.
Ashburton—Samuel Brown, 1st, Henry Daniels. N.B. Brother Daniels shall reside at Buckfastleigh.

IX.—THE CORNWALL DISTRICT.

- Robert Young, Chairman of the District—Edward Nye, Financial Secretary.
Redruth—Robt. Bond, Edwin J. Sturges; Wm. Thomas, supernumerary.
Camborne—Thos. Collins, Robert Lyon, John Gostick. N.B. Brother Gostick shall reside at Tuckingmill.
Falmouth—Thos. Hardy, Matthew Andrew; Robert T. Rundell, supernumerary. N.B. Brother Andrew shall reside at Penryn.
Truro—Edward Nye, Michael Johnson.
Gwennap—Thomas Jewell, Hender Geach, John Harrop. N.B. Brother Geach shall reside at St. Day.
St. Agnes—James Pilley, James Fisher.
St. Austle—Elijah Toyne, Joseph Payne, Frederick W. Briggs.
St. Mawes—Benjamin Carvosso, who shall change once in every month, on the Lord's Day, with the ministers of St. Austle.
Bodmin—Benjamin Elvins, John M'Kenny.
St. Columb—William Harvie, Mark Symons.
Penzance—Robt. Young, John H. James, H. L. Church; John Reynolds, 2nd, Ralph Scurrah, sups. N.B. Bro. Church shall reside at Newlands.
St. Just—Everett Vigis, Isaac Harding.
St. Ives—Wm. P. Burgess, Ebenezer R. Talbot, A.M.
Scilly Islands—Thomas Robinson.
Helstone—James Edney, Peter Parsons, Thos. Osborne; William Sleep, Joseph Womersley, Charles Colwell, supernumeraries.
Hayle—Wm. Appleby, John Killick, John P. James; Simeon Noall, sup.
Marazion—John Gregory, Elias Geake.;

X.—THE EXETER DISTRICT.

- Wm. Vevers, Chairman of the District—John Hobson, Financial Secretary.
Exeter—James Grose, Wm. Secombe; James Odgers, Wm. Beal, supers.
Crediton—Thomas Leach.
Tiverton—John Collier, W. F. Clarke,
Taunton and Wellington—J. Hobson, T. Jefferies; Wm. Vevers, governor and chaplain of the Wesleyan Proprietary school; J. Simmons, sup.
 N.B.—Brother Jefferies shall reside at Wellington.
Bridgewater—Henry Ranson, H. B. Cox.
South Petherton—Thomas Catterick, John Hugill. N.B. Brother Hugill shall reside at Crewkerne.
Axminster and Honiton—James Stott.
Budleigh Salterton and Ottery St. Mary's—Ralph Scott, George Moon.
 N.B.—Brother Moon shall divide his labours equally between the Axminster and the Budleigh Salterton Circuits.
Bridport—Thomas Thompson, A.M., James Nance. N.B. Brother Nance shall reside at Lyme-Regis.
Barnstaple—Samuel Beard, Henry Hayman.
South Moulton—James Sutch, James Hargreaves.
Bideford—John Williams, J. Mollard, J. Nowell, 2nd; J. C. Clendinnen, sup. N.B.—Brother Mollard shall reside at Great Torrington.
Dunster—John Saunders, W. Williams, 2nd. N.B. The superintendent shall reside at Williton.

Oakhampton—William S. Bestall, Charles J. Williams.

Teignmouth—Geo. Barnley, W. P. Slater, Jos. Exell. N.B.—Brother Exell shall reside at Newton-Bushell, and Brother Slater at Torquay.

XI.—THE BRISTOL DISTRICT.

Joseph Cusworth, Chairman of the District—John W. Button, Financial Secretary.

Bristol, North (King-street, &c.)—Joseph Wood, W. Hurt, J. W. Etheridge, Ph. D., T. S. Monkhouse; John Woodrow, J. Bowes, R. James, sup.

Bristol, South (Langton-st., &c.)—J. W. Button, J. Carr; J. Whitworth, sup.

Kingswood—James Allen, 2nd, Geo. Kevern; Jos. Cusworth, governor of Kingswood school; Samuel Jones, A.M., head master of the school.

Banwell—Joseph Crump, Thos. Sheers, G. C. Harvard. N.B.—Brother Harvard shall reside at Weston-super-Mare.

Stroud—Thos. Webb, Geo. B. Mellor, John Bramley; Wm. Mowatt, sup. N.B. Brother Bramley shall reside at Cirencester.

Dursley—John Crowe, John Anderson, Hy. Laugher; T. Talboys, Daniel Osborne, supers. N.B. Brother Anderson shall reside at Eastington.

Downend (near Bristol)—William Davis, 1st, John Bissell.

Gloucester—John Smedley, Richard Roberts.

Tewkesbury—John Evans, John Thomas, 2nd; James Roberts, sup.

Cheltenham—J. Kirk, 1st, W. H. Cornforth, W. Edwards, 2nd; F. Calder, G. Robinson, supers. N.B. Brother Edwards shall reside at Winchcombe.

Newport (Monmouthshire)—Aquila Barber, J. S. Jones, W. Powell, 2nd; Charles Haime, sup. N.B. Brother Jones shall reside at Pillgwenlly.

Cardiff—Charles Tucker, William Fox, 2nd. N.B. Brother Fox shall reside at Pontypridd. The ministers at Cardiff and Bridge-End, shall change once in six weeks.

Bridge-End—James Mayer.

Monmouth—Joseph Lowthian, Uriah Scott.

Abergavenny and Pontypool—Hugh Carter, T. Rogerson; T. Arnett, sup. N.B. The superintendent shall reside at Pontypool.

Ledbury and Forest of Dean—J. Meadmore, J. Parsons, J. S. Workman.

Hereford—Samuel Taylor, Joseph L. Ball.

XII.—THE BATH DISTRICT.

John Rigg, Chairman of the District—William Box, Financial Secretary.

Bath—J. Rigg, J. Bromley; T. Ashton, F. B. Potts, R. Harding, supers.

Bradford (Wilts)—Hugh Jones, George F. White. N.B. Brother White shall reside at Trowbridge.

Midsomer-Norton—William Box, Josiah Goodwin, Henry M. Harvard.

Frome—William Hill, Joseph T. Sanger.

Warminster—George Clement, who shall change with the ministers at Frome once in six weeks.

Melksham—James Lees, Walter Vercoe.

Devizes—William W. Rouch, who shall change on one sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Melksham.

Shepton-Mallett—James Taylor, 1st, Thomas Flower.

Sherborne—James Smeeth, John Lesson; John Bustard, sup.

Weymouth—Edward Jennings, Joseph Watson. N.B. Brother Watson shall reside at Portland.

Dorchester—Thomas Payne, Charles Howe.

Shaftesbury—John W. Cotton, James S. Haigh.

Glastonbury—H. V. Olver, John S. Jones.

XIII.—THE FIRST SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.—(ENGLISH.)

- Joseph Pratten, Chairman of the District—William Bytheway, Financial Secretary.
 Swansea—Joseph Pratten, J. G. Avery; Evan Parry, sup. N.B. Brother Avery shall reside at Neath.
 Merthyr-Tydvil—Joseph Fletcher, John Collier, Joseph pencer.
 Brecon—Paul Orchard, Paul Orchard, jun.
 Carmarthen—John Morgan, Alexander T. Wear; Thomas Warren, sup. N.B. Brother Weir shall reside at Llanelly.
 Haverford, West—Wm. Bytheway, Aaron Langley; W. Williams, 1st, sup. N.B. Brother Langley shall reside at Milford.
 Pembroke—Thomas Heeley, John Martin.

XIV.—THE SECOND SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.—(WELSH.)

- Thomas Jones, 2nd, Chairman of the District—Isaac Jenkins, Financial Secretary.
 Merthyr-Tydvil—Rowland Hughes, Ebenezer Morgan.
 Crickhowell—Owen Owen, Lewis Williams.
 Cardiff—Henry Wilcox, Joseph Jones.
 Cowbridge—John Reeves. N.B. Brother Jones shall divide his labours between the Cardiff and Cowbridge circuits. The superintendents shall change on one Sunday in every two months.
 Brecon—Timothy Jones.
 Llandilo—E. Richard; M. Griffith, sup. N.B. The ministers in the Brecon and Llandilo circuits are to change on one Sunday in every quarter.
 Carmarthen—Thomas Jones, 2nd, John Herbert; Hugh Hughes, sup.
 Swansea—Robert Williams; William Hughes, Evan Hughes, supers.
 Cardigan—Robert Owen, Richard Evans, Griffith Hughes, super. N.B. The superintendent shall reside at Lampeter.
 St. David's—Isaac Jenkins. N.B. The ministers in the Cardigan and St. David's circuits are to change on one Sunday in every quarter.
 Aberystwith—John Lloyd, David Jones, 2nd.
 Machynlleth—William Rowlands; William Evans, sup. N.B. The ministers in the Machynlleth and Aberystwyth circuits shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks.
 Llanidloes—Benjamin Roberts, book-steward; John Jones, 3rd, editor; Edward Jones, 1st, supernumerary.

XV.—THE NORTH WALES DISTRICT.—(WELSH.)

- Edward Anwyll, Chairman of the District—John L. Richards, Financial Secretary.
 Ruthin and Denbigh—John Bartley, David Williams.
 Llangollen—John L. Richards, John Evans.
 Corwen—James Jones, 2nd. N.B. Brother Evans shall divide his labours between the Llangollen and Corwen circuits. The superintendents shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.
 Llanrwst—Edward Anwyll, John R. Chambers, Evan Davies. N.B. The superintendent shall reside at Abergele.
 Holywell—William Owen, Thomas Morris.
 Mold—John Richards, Isaac Jones.
 Llanasa (near Holywell)—Lewis Jones. N.B. The ministers of the Llanasa and Holywell circuits shall change on two Sundays every quarter.
 Beaumaris—Humphrey Jones, William Jones.
 Amlwch—Methusaleh Thomas. N.B. Brother W. Jones shall divide his labours between the Beaumaris and Amlwch circuits. The superintendents shall change on two Sundays in every six weeks.
 Carnarvon—David Gravel.

Bangor—Richard Bonner, Evan Pugh. N.B. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.

Pwllhelli—Robert Jones, 1st; Evan Edwards, supernumerary.

Barmouth—David Evans, William Davies, 3d. N.B. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.

Dolgelly—John Hughes, Daniel Jones.

Llanfyllen—Richard Prichard, Robert Jones, 2d; William Batten, David Jones, 1st, supernumeraries.

Llanfair—William Powell. N.B. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.

XVI.—THE BIRMINGHAM AND SHREWSBURY DISTRICT.

James Dixon, D.D., Chairman of the District—John Bedford, Financial Secretary.

Birmingham, West (Cherry-street, &c.)—James Dixon, D.D., Wm. H. Rule, William Wilson, 3d, Edward Brice; James Heaton, Robert Melson, William Bridgnell, supernumeraries.

Birmingham, East (Belmont-row, &c.)—Joseph Roberts, 1st, John Bedford, John Hartley; Benjamin Wood, supernumerary.

West Bromwich—W. Jackson, 1st, William H. Sargent.

Wednesbury—James Shoar, Wm. Tarr, Benjamin Slack, John Keightley; Joseph Hunt, supernumerary.

Walsall—Thos. Edwards, J. Storzaker, Jas. Parkes; Jabez Yardley, sup.

Wolverhampton—R. Sherwell, James Osborn, James Clapham.

Dudley—Jas. Allen, 1st, J. W. Thomas, R. Sergeant; Wm. Homer, sup.

Stourbridge—William Piggott, Christopher Ridler, Richard Hardy.

Stourport—Henry Powis, Edward Russell; Jacob Stanley, sen., sup.

Worcester—Elijah Morgan, James H. Rigg.

Bromsgrove—Charles Janion, who shall change on one Sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Redditch.

Evesham—William Culcheth, Joseph Bate.

Redditch—John Walsh, Samuel Haigh.

Covenry—James Cheeswright, John Roberts, 2nd.

Leamington—William D. Goy, George Curnock.

Stratford-upon-Avon—Thomas Denham, who shall change on one Sabbath in every month with the ministers at Leamington.

Hinckley—Charles Vibert, John Smithson; William Stokes, sup.

Shrewsbury—John Tindall, Anthony Ward.

Madeley—Jas. B. Holroyd, Geo. Hughes, John Smart, Wm. H. Bakewell.

Wellington—William Ricketts, Thomas Jeffrey, John Bramwell.

Ludlow—John B. Whittingham, Jas. Emory, Humphrey Parsons, sup.

Kington—Joseph T. Wilkinson, John Nelson, 2d.

XVII.—THE MACCLESFIELD DISTRICT.

Corbett Cooke, Chairman of the District—William Chambers, Financial Secretary.

Macclesfield—Corbett Cooke, Nehemiah Curnock, William R. Rogers; Joseph Mood. N.B. Brother Rogers shall reside at Bollington.

Buxton—Thomas A. Rayner, Robert J. T. Hawksley.

Congleton—John D. Carey, Thomas Brookes.

Namptwich and Crewe—Abraham Watmough, William Henley. N.B. Brother Henley shall reside at Crewe.

Northwich—Ebenezer Moulton, Thomas Richardson.

Burslem—Barnard Slater, Levi Waterhouse. N.B. Brother Waterhouse shall reside at Hanley.

Tunstall—Andrew Mackintosh, Charles Rawlings. N.B. Brother Rawlings shall reside at Kidsgrove.

Newcastle-under-Lyne—Samuel Atkinson, Charles Nightingale.
 Longton—William Chambers, William Allen, 3d. N.B. Brother Allen shall reside at Stoke.
 Stafford—Charles Hawthorne, Thomas Hulme,
 Leek—Thos. Hickson, Wm. Brailey, John P. Johnson; Wm. Wears, sup.
 Uttoxeter—Jonathan Barrowclough, Edward A. Telfer.
 Cheadle—Matthew Salt. N.B. Brother Salt shall change on one Sabbath in every four weeks with the ministers at Uttoxeter.

XVIII—THE LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

William W. Stamp, Chairman of the District—William H. Taylor, Financial Sec.
 Liverpool, North (Brunswick Chapel, &c.)—Wm. W. Stamp, Wm. Illingworth, S. R. Hall; Geo. Highfield, John Davies, Thos. Stead, supers.
 Liverpool, South (Pitt street, &c.)—Peter M'Owan, George Roebuck, William H. Taylor, William Willan; Calverley Riley, supernumerary.
 Liverpool, Welsh (Benn's Gardens, &c.)—Lot Hughes, Thomas Aubrey; Samuel Davis, 1st, supernumerary.
 Chester—Charles Cheetham, Jos Akrell; Isaac Lilly, John Jones, 2d, supers.
 Mold and Buckley Mount—Felix H. Pickworth, who shall change with the ministers of the Chester circuit once in every six weeks.
 Carnarvon and Bangor (English)—John Bowman.
 Holyhead—Wm. T. Nelson. N.B. Brother Bowman and Brother Nelson shall change on two successive Sundays in each quarter of a year.
 Wrexham—Robt. Mainwaring, John Eaton, who shall reside at Oswestry.
 Whitchurch (Salop)—Robert Totherick, Benjamin Smith.
 Warrington—Samuel Broadbent, George Dickinson.
 Runcorn—Robert H. Hare, W. P. Peck, who shall reside at Frodsham.
 St. Helen's and Prescott—Joshua Hocken, Robert Dyson.
 Southport and Ormskirk—James Miller, Wm. H. Lewis; John Phillips, supernumerary. N.B. Brother Lewis shall reside at Ormskirk.
 Wigau—Thomas Moss, James Allen, 3d.
 Preston and Chorley—James E. Moulton, Thomas Kent, Joshua Priestly; Jos. Meek, supernumerary. N.B. Brother Kent shall reside at Chorley.
 Garstang—Thomas Burrows, George Mather, Richard Smetham. N.B. Brother Mather shall reside at Fleetwood.
 Lancaster—William Coultas, James Faulkner.
 Newtown—James Eacott, Edward Watson; John Nicklen, supernum.

XIX.—THE MANCHESTER AND BOLTON DISTRICT.

Robert Newton, D.D., Chairman—Jonathan Crowther, Financial Secretary.
 First Manchester (Oldham-street, &c.)—Wm. Naylor, Samuel Simpson, Thos. Nightingale, Geo. C. Taylor; Walter Hussey, Abraham Stead, supers.
 Second Manchester, (Irwell-street, &c.)—Richd. Ray, Jonathan J. Bates, Thomas Capp, John Kirk, 2d; Thomas Slugg, supernumerary.
 Third Manchester (Grosvenor-street, &c.)—Charles Haydon, William Elton, Henry Castle.
 Fourth Manchester (Bridgewater-street, &c.)—Wm. Kelk, Wm. Webb, 1st; Wm. Shelmerdine, Sup. (Welsh)—Sam. Davis, who shall act under the direction of the superintendent of the fourth Manchester circuit.
 Fifth Manchester (Oxford-road, &c.)—George Osborn, Alfred Barrett, Samuel Wilkinson, 2d; Robert Wood, supernumerary,
 Altrincham—James Rosser, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the ministers of the Fourth Manchester Circuit; William M'Kittrick, supernumerary.

Stockport, North (Tiviot-Dale)—Robert Newton, D.D., Isaac Keeling, William T. Radcliffe, William Spencer.

Stockport, South (Hill Gate, &c.)—John Brandreth, John T. Yeates.

New Mills—John Connon, Stephen P. Harvard.

Glossop—John Baby, Nicholas C. Pridham; George Marsden, *sup.*

Ashton-under-Lyne—John Boyd, Wm. H. Bambridge, Chas. B. Ritchie; Luke Heywood, *sup.* N.B. Brother Bambridge shall reside at Hyde.

Oldham—Robert Heys, Joseph Moorhouse; John Heap, *supernumerary*.

Delph (Saddleworth)—Wm. Bramford, who shall change on one Sabbath in every five weeks with the ministers at Oldham.

Bolton—John M'Owan, John E. Coulson, Jas. Little, Fredk. F. Woolley. N.B. Brother Woolley shall reside at Farnworth.

Rochdale—Joseph Rayner, Samuel Merrill.

Burnley—Thomas Dunn, John M. Kirk, John Clulow.

Bury—William Bond, John Vine, John J. Dredge.

Blackburn—Benjamin Clayton, Francis W. Greeves.

Haslingden—B. Frankland, John Hearnshaw, Josiah Pearson.

Bacup—Abel Dernaley, Wm. Exley; Samuel Sugden, *supernumerary*. N.B. Brother Exley shall reside at Longholme, Rawtenstall.

Colne—Thomas Turner, John G. Cox.

Clitheroe—Dixon Naylor, George Abbott.

Leigh—John Jackson. N.B. Brother Jackson shall change on one Sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Bolton.

XX.—THE HALIFAX AND BRADFORD DISTRICT.

Francis A. West, Chairman of the District—Henry H. Chettle, Financial Secretary.

Halifax—George Turner, 1st, Henry H. Chettle, Elijah Jackson, Joseph Millar; Michael Cousin, John W. Barritt, *supernumeraries*.

Huddersfield, First (Queen-street, &c.)—G. B. Macdonald, W. R. Williams.

Huddersfield, Second (Buxton-road, &c.)—Francis A. West, Amos Leayard, Edmund Knaggs.

Holmfirth—John Wilson, 1st, J. Hanson, Joseph Garrett; T. Hill, *sup.*

Sowerby-bridge—Isaac Denison, John Ward, 1st, Joseph Binns.

Todmorden—John Bell, Robert S. Hardy, John Luddington.

Denby-Dale (near Huddersfield)—James Bate, Peter Featherstone.

Bradford, West (Kirkgate Chapel, &c.)—Edward Walker, John Morris; Stephen Wilson, Joseph Pretty, *supernumeraries*.

Bradford, East (Eastbrook Chapel, &c.)—Wm. Bird, Daniel Walton, James D. Brocklehurst.

Great Horton (near Bradford)—J. T. Barr, John Ward, 2nd.

Keighley—J. Beckwith, H. Richardson, J. H. Lord. N.B. Brother Richardson shall reside at Haworth. Letters to be sent to Haworth, near Keighley.

Bingley—Samuel Allen, George Greenwood.

Shipley—Benjamin Gartside, who shall change on one Sabbath in every five weeks with the ministers at Bingley.

Skipton—William Levell, Richard Petch.

Addingham—Thomas Murray, Matthew Giles.

Grassington—James Lemmon, who shall change on one Sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Skipton:

Settle—C. Newton, T. H. Brocklehurst.

XXI.—THE LEEDS DISTRICT.

Wm. Atherton, Chairman of the District—Peter C. Horton, Financial Secretary.

First Leeds (Brunswick Chapel, &c.)—Robt. Jackson, Geo. Steward, Thos. Williams, 1st; Isaac Turton, John Roadhouse, *supernumeraries*.

- Second Leeds (Oxford-place Chapel, &c.)—James Methley, John Burton, Robert Leake, Alexander M'Anlay.
- Third Leeds (St. Peter's Chapel, &c.)—John P. Haswell, Joseph Lawton, Thomas O. Keyseil.
- Fourth Leeds (Wesley Chapel, &c.)—T. H. Squance, John Watson, Richard Chapman.
- Bramley (near Leeds)—Benjamin Clough, James Kendall, 1st, Robt. M. Wilcox; Charles Radcliffe, supernumerary.
- Wakefield—Wm. Atherton, Josh. T. Milner, P. C. Horton, Gervase Smith.
- Birstal—Benjamin Pearce, John Sumner, James P. Fairburn; Hodgson Casson, John Hodgson, Jas Fowler, supernumeraries.
- Dewsbury—Richard Heape, Wm. J. Shrewsbury, William Dawson. N.B. Brother Dawson shall reside at Mirfield.
- Knaresborough—Josiah Hudson, John P. Lockwood; Luke Barlow, sup.
- Otley—Wm. Ash, Wm. Winterburn; Wm. Waterhouse, supernumerary.
- Pateley Bridge—Abraham Crabtree, William Wilson, 4th.
- Pontefract—Samuel Fiddian, Samuel Hooley, John Harding, Calvert Spensley; John Sedgwick, Thomas Moxon, Joseph Nicholson, supernumeraries. N.B. Brother Harding shall reside at Knottingley.
- Cleckheaton—John Walker, Jabez Ingham. N.B. Brother Ingham shall reside at Bighouse.
- Yeadon (near Leeds)—Leonard Posnet.
- Woodhouse Grove—Wm. Sleigh, John S. Ridsdale; Wm. Lord, governor of Woodhouse Grove School. N.B. 1. Brother Ridsdale shall divide his labours between the Yeadon and Woodhouse Grove Circuits. 2. Letters to the Superintendent should be directed to Idle, near Bradford; and letters for the School should be directed to Woodhouse Grove, Apperley-bridge, near Leeds.

XXII.—THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

- Thomas Harris, Chairman of the District—John C. Pengelly, Financial Secretary.
- Sheffield, West (Carver-street, &c.)—Wm. Allen, 1st, Thomas P. Clarke, John Hornby, Daniel West; Samuel D. Waddy, governor and chaplain of the Wesleyan Proprietary School; John Maclean, supernumerary.
- Sheffield, East (Norfolk-street, &c.)—Thos. Harris, Richard Felvus, John C. Pengelly, Edward Jones, 2nd.
- Chesterfield—William Parker, William Lindley.
- Bakewell—Robert Harrison, William Jackson, 3rd.
- Bradwell—Moses Rayner, Joseph Sutton.
- Rotherham—Edward Sumner, Richard Brown.
- Wath—Adam Fletcher, William Sugden.
- Doncaster—T. Dickinson, J. Laycock, Wm. Jessop; T. Garbutt, 1st, super.
- Barnsley—Ralph R. Keeling, Samuel Simmons.
- Retford—Joseph Burgess, John Roberts, 1st, George Hobill.
- Worksop—James Brooke, Henry J. Staley.

XXIII.—THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY DISTRICT.

- George Taylor, Chairman of the District—James Loutit, Financial Secretary.
- Nottingham, South (Halifax Chapel, &c.)—Robt. Maxwell, James Loutit, Samuel Walker; Daniel S. Tatham, supernumerary.
- Nottingham, North (Wesley Chapel, &c.)—George Taylor, Robert M. Macbrair, A. M., William Fox, 1st.
- Ilkestone—William Dalby, George Buckley.
- Mansfield—John C. George, James Godden; Richard Allen, sup.
- Newark—Wm. B. Stephenson, John Randerson; John Hickling, sup.

Bingham—Martin Jubb, William Allen, 4th.
Leicester—Stephen Kay, Rd. Rymer; John Denton, David Deakin, *sup.*
Melton-Mowbray—Henry Wilkinson, William H. Robson.
Oakham—Timothy R. Moxon, Andrew Rennard. N.B. Brother Rennard shall reside at Uppingham.
Stamford—Henry Kirkland, Robert Brown.
Grantham—Thomas Armson, Thomas Rowe, Edward Harrison.
Peterborough—Thomas Rodham, John Hirst, Thomas Derry.
Loughborough—David Cornforth, Frederick Slight.
Castle-Donington—John Parkes, Rupert Chawner.
Derby—William H. Clarkson, John Lambert, John Relph.
Ashbourne—William Clarkton, who shall change once in every month with the ministers at Derby.
Belper—George Birley, Henry Hine.
Ripley, near Alfreton—Samuel Tims, George Smith, 3rd.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch—Joseph Cheesewright, William Swallow.
Burton-on-Trent—James Wilson, John B. Dyson.
Cromford—John Hague, John F. England.

XXIV.—THE LINCOLN DISTRICT.

William Bacon, Chairman of the District—John Stephenson, Financial Secretary.
Lincoln—William Bacon, Peter Budd, William Cattle, Thomas S. Wood.
Sleaford—Joseph Floyd, John Nicholson, Philip Fowler.
Market-Rasen—Thomas Eckersley, Joseph Sykes; Thos. Padman, *sup.*
Louth—John Stephenson, John H. Norton, Joseph Heaton, John H. Beech; James Bumstead, supernumerary.
Horncastle—T. H. Walker, J. Talbot, J. Blackwell; J. Hopewell, *super.*
Alford—John Brown, 2nd, Nathaniel Alston; Robert Bryan, *super.*
Spilsby—Jonathan Cadman, George Oyston.
Coningsby—Seth Dixon, who shall change with the ministers at Boston and Horncastle once in every six weeks with each circuit.
Boston—Philip Hardcastle, James P. Dunn.
Wainfleet—Ambrose Freeman, David Griffiths.
Spalding—R. Gover, H. D. Lowe (who shall reside at Holbeach), T. Crosby.
Bourne—George Crofts, Samuel Wesley.

XXV.—THE HULL DISTRICT.

Henry Davis, Chairman of the District—Isaac Woodcock, Financial Secretary.
Hull, West (Waltham-street, &c.)—Charles Prest, Henry Bleby, William Jackson, 2nd.; Samuel Crompton, supernumerary.
Hull, East (George-yard, &c.)—Henry Davis, Thomas Llewellyn, William Davison; Francis Derry, supernumerary.
Beverley—Samuel Brown, 2nd, Thomas Powell.
Driffield—Samuel Wilde, Joseph Officer.
Howden—Isaac Woodcock, Jesse Edgoose.
Patrington—Thomas Brown, Richard Smales.
Hornsea—William G. Duncan, Edward King; John Jones, 1st, *super.*
Grimsby—Benjamin Firth, Robert Dngdale, William J. Skidmore, George Scott, 2nd; Edward Abraham, supernumerary.
Gainsborough—William Crookes, Thomas Short, Henry J. Booth.
Epworth—Benjamin Hudson, Robert W. Broomfield.
Snaith—J. Bolam, J. Kipling, J. Morton (who shall reside at Goole).
Brigg—Thomas D. Baines, George Southern.
Barton—Thos. Cocking, J. M. Joll, Nathan Rouse; J. Nowell, 1st, *super.*
Bridlington—Alex. Hume, Wm. Hales, Edmund Stokes; C. North, *sup.*

XXVI.—THE YORK DISTRICT.

Alexander Bell, Chairman of the District—Wm. Smith, 1st, Financial Secretary.
 York—Alex. Bell, R. Inglis, John Ryan, 1st, B. B. Waddy; J. Burdsall,
 Anthony Triffit, Wm. Carlton, Mw. Mallinson, Wm. Blundell, supers.
 Tadcaster—Thomas Eastwood, John Simon.
 Pocklington—Samuel Rowe, Henry Owen.
 Malton—J. H. Faull, Mw. Cranswick, J. Kendall, 2nd; D. Jackson, sup.
 Easingwold—William Wilkinson, William Drewitt, William Stevinson.
 N.B. Brother Stevinson shall reside at Helmsley.
 Scarborough—W. Smith, 1st, W. B. Thorneloe, J. Collier; F. Collier, sup.
 Pickering—Peter Prescott, Edward Horton; Joseph Frank, super.
 Thirsk—James Catton, Rd. Stepney, Francis Barker; J. Kemp, super.
 Ripon—Thomas Kilner, James Harris.
 Selby—Robert Day, Matthew Banks, John I. Muff.

XXVII.—THE WHITBY AND DARLINGTON DISTRICT.

George Jackson, Chairman of the District—William Robson, Financial Secretary.
 Whitby—W. J. Bullivant, Thomas Garbutt, 2nd, John Cannell. N.B.
 Brother Cannell shall reside at Danby Head.
 Stokesley—John Haigh, Henry Graham, Thos. Timms; Wm. Rennison,
 Joseph Hutton, supernumeraries.
 Darlington—George Jackson, Luke H. Wiseman.
 Stockton—Wm. Binning, Thomas Fitzgerald, Henry Smallwood; John
 M. Pearson, sup. N.B. Brother Smallwood shall reside at Middles-
 borough, and Brother Fitzgerald at Hartlepool.
 Barnard-Castle—Wm. Robson, George Russell, Thomas Sheldon. N.B.
 Brother Russell shall reside at Barningham.
 Bishop-Auckland—Robt. Cook, Josh. B. Dawson; John Bumstead, sup.
 Middleham—John Imisson, Charles B. Potts.
 Richmond—James S. Thomas, Samuel Lord.
 Reeth—Thos. Kemshall, Alfred Abbott; John Rawson, sup.
 Bedale—Miles C. Dixon, Joseph Whitehead; Wm. Shakleton, supernu-
 merary. N.B. Brother Whitehead shall reside at Masham.

XXVIII.—THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

William Burt, Chairman of the District—William Pemberton, Financial Secretary.
 Newcastle upon-Tyne—Wm. Burt, Wm. Pemberton, Wm. Andrews, Wm.
 M. Punshon; Francis Neale, supernumerary.
 Gateshead—Thomas Stokoe, Joseph Mortimer.
 North Shields—Jas. C. Hindson, Henry Hastling; Robert Morton, sup.
 Blyth—Samuel Brocksop, John Elam.
 South Shields—William Wilson, 2nd, John Walters.
 Sunderland—Thos. Staton, Jarvis Cheeseman, Fred. Griffiths; Humphrey
 Stevenson, George Clarke, supernumeraries.
 Houghton-le-Spring—Samuel Lucas, 2nd, John Wetherell.
 Durham—James Scholes, George Ellidge.
 Wolsingham—William Ingham, William Hirst.
 Hexham—Robert Lewis, 2nd, John Wood, 2nd.
 Shotley Bridge—Peter Wilkinson, Thomas M'Cullagh.
 Alston—Henry Dean, William Shaw.
 Allendale-Town—Thomas Ballinghall, Joseph Hirst.
 Alnwick—David Edgar.
 Berwick—Samuel Bowman, who shall change on two Sundays in each
 quarter with Brother Edgar.

Morpeth—Edmund Okfield, who shall change on one Sunday in every three weeks with the ministers of the Blyth circuit.

XXIX.—THE CARLISLE DISTRICT.

Hugh Beech, Chairman of the District—William Simpson, Financial Secretary.

Carlisle—Hugh Beech, J. W. Crankshaw.

Brampton—Hugh Johnson, who shall change on one Sunday in every three weeks with the ministers at Carlisle.

Whitehaven—Thomas Savage, Robert Cass.

Workington—Harry Pedley, Edward Bayliss. N.B. Brother Bayliss shall reside at Cockermouth.

Appleby—Thos. J. Walker, Wm. Foster; John Felvus, supernumerary. N.B. Brother Foster shall reside at Brough.

Penrith—Wm. Simpson, Alfred Lockyer, Robert Horsfield.

Wigton and Keswick—Alexander Mansie, T. H. Hill. N.B. Brother Hill shall reside at Keswick.

Kendal—J. Lewis, 1st, T. Rigby; J. Dunbar, Wm. Huddleston, sups.

Ulverstone—William Parkinson, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the ministers at Kendal.

Dumfries—William Shearman.

XXX.—THE ISLE OF MAN DISTRICT.

Roger Moore, Chairman of the District:

Douglas and Castletown—Roger Moore, Chas. Currelly, Theophilus Talbot Ramsay and Peel—John Russell, Samuel Healy, John Skidmore.

XXXI.—THE EDINBURGH AND ABERDEEN DISTRICT.

William Horton, Chairman of the District—John Drake, Financial Secretary.

Edinburgh—William Horton, John Hay, William L. Horton.

Dunbar and Haddington—B. Frankland, jun., B.A., who shall change with the ministers at Edinburgh, under the direction of the superintendent. **Glasgow and Paisley**—John P. Hetherington, John Hannah, 2d; William France, supernumerary.

Greenock—W. Mearns, A.M., who shall change with the ministers at Glasgow on one Sunday in every six weeks.

Airdrie, Stirling, and Down—Paul Clarke, J. Danks, H. Balls. N.B. The superintendent shall reside at Stirling, and Brother Balls at Airdrie.

Ayr—George Paterson.

Aberdeen—Peter Samuel, Rd. Martin, S. M'Aulay; G. Douglas, super.

Dundee—Jabez Palmer.

Perth—Edward Shelton, who shall change once in every six weeks with the ministers at Dundee.

Arbroath and Montrose—John Drake, Lancelot Railton. N.B. Brother Drake shall reside at Montrose.

Banff—Robert Haworth.

Inverness—Edmund B. Warters, who shall change with the minister at Banff on two Sundays in every six months.

XXXII.—THE SHETLAND ISLES DISTRICT.

Thompson Hesk, Chairman of the District.

Lerwick—Thompson Hesk, D. Farquhar, T. D. Dilks. N.B. Brother Farquhar shall reside at Dunrossness, and Bro. Dilks in the isle of Whalsey.

Walls—James Findley.

Northmavin and Delting—Benjamin Haworth.

North Isles—William Parsonson; William Langridge, supernumerary.

N.B. Brother Parsonson shall reside in the island of Unst.

IRISH AND FOREIGN STATIONS.

I.—EUROPE.

IRELAND.

Lucan and Trim—John Feeley, Samuel Johnston.
 Kilkenny—John Walker, J. Keys.
 Tipperary—Francis Morrow.
 Youghal—Edward M. Banks.
 Fermoy—Jno. Liddy; J. Harrington, who is to reside in Mallow, sup.
 Kinsale—Frederick Elliott.
 Berehaven Mines—T. M'Lorinan.
 Dingle—George Magee.
 Ballinasloe—T. Hickey; W. Cornwall, who is to reside in Tuam, sup.
 Nenagh and Killaloe—Jas. Sullivan, Henry Geddes.
 Kilrush—Francis Stephens.
 Galway—James Henry.
 Belmullet and Eris—R. H. Campbell.
 Cavan—Thos. Foster, T. W. Baker.
 Donegal—W. Guard, W. B. Lebert.
 Rathmelton—James Donald.
 Newtownlimavady—Jerem. Wilson.
 Ballymena—Robert Black.

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

Charles Cook, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in France and Switzerland.
 Paris—Chas. Cook. One to be sent.
 Calais—Philip Guiton.
 Boulogne—Charles W. Cleeve, B.A.
 Caen (Le Bocage, &c.)—Peter Lucas, Charles C. de Boynville, who shall reside at Lisieux.
 Nismes, Anduze—La Vaunage, and La Gardonnègue, Henry de Jersey, J. L. Roston, L. Pulsford; P. Roy, G. Jaulmes, assistant missionaries.
 Ganges, &c. (Les Cévennes, West)—J. de Lievre, a; H. Martin, super.
 Lyons, &c. (Drome and upper Alps)—Francis Farjat, Louis Martin, Peter Massot, Philip Neel.
 Lausanne and Aigle (Switzerland)—Matthew Gallienne, Wm. Ogier.

MEDITERRANEAN MISSIONS.

Gibraltar, Hilton Cheesbrough—George Alton, Spanish department.

II.—ASIA.

CEYLON. I.—THE SINGHALESE DISTRICT.—(SOUTH.)

D. J. Gogerly, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the missions in south Ceylon.

Colombo, South—Daniel J. Gogerly; David de Silva, native minister.
 Colombo, North—J. A. Poulter, n. Negombo, and Rillegalle—Daniel D. Pereira, native minister.
 Seedua—D. A. L. Bartholomeuz, n. Galkisse—C. Wijesingha, n. Morrotto—P. G. de Zilva, n. Pantura—J. R. Parys, native minister. N.B. The Colombo North, Negombo, Seedua, Galkisse, Morrotto, and Pantura circuits are under the care of the superintendent of the Colombo south circuit.
 Caltura—William H. A. Dickson.
 Galle and Amblamgodde—P. Rodrigo, a. N.B. Paul Rodrigo shall reside at Amblamgodde.
 Belligam—W. A. Lalmon, n. Matura, Dondra, and Goddapitiya—C. W. de Hoedt, n. N.B. The Belligam, Matura, Dondra, and Goddapitiya circuits are under the care of the Galle superintendent.

II.—THE TAMIL DISTRICT. (NORTH.)

Peter Percival, Chairman of the district, and General Superintendent of the Missions in North Ceylon.
 Jaffna, Wannerponne, and Puttoor—Peter Percival, J. E. S. Williams; Richard Watson, native minister.
 Point-Pedro and Catavelley—E. J. Robinson.
 Trincomalee—John Walton.
 Batticaloa, First (Puleanteevo)—James Gillings.
 Batticaloa, Second (Caravoor)—One earnestly requested.

CONTINENTAL INDIA. I.—THE MADRAS DISTRICT.

Samuel Hardy, Chairman and General Superintendent of the Madras district.
 Madras—Saml. Hardy, P. Batchelor, Ebenezer E. Jenkins.
 Negapatam and Tranquebar—John Pinkney, John Kilner; S. Devasagayam, assistant missionary.
 Manargoody and Trichinopoly—Joseph Little; A. D. Ponniah, a. Bangalore (Tamil)—Thomas Cryer.

II.—THE MYSORE DISTRICT.

John Garrett, Chairman and General Superintendent of the Mysore district.
 Bangalore (Canarese)—J. Garrett

Edward J. Hardy; W. Walker, a. Mysore—Daniel Sanderson, B. Field. Goobbee and Toomkoor—Thomas B. Glanville, James M. Cranswick; H. O. Sullivan, assistant missionary. Coonghul—Joseph Morris.

AUSTRALASIA & POLYNESIA.

I.—THE AUSTRALIA AND VAN DIEMAN'S LAND DISTRICT. NEW SOUTH WALES.

W. B. Boyce, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Australia and Van Dieman's Land District.

Sydney, North (York-street)—Wm. B. Boyce, W. Butters, J. Oram.

Sydney, South (Chippendale)—Fredrick Lewis.

Sydney, East (Surrey Hills)—B. Hurst. Paramatta—Nathaniel Turner.

Windsor—William Schofield; John Pemell, assistant missionary.

Bathurst—B. Chapman; John G. Milliard, assistant missionary.

Hunter River—S. Wilkinson, 1st; W. Rynes, assistant missionary.

Goulburn—James Somerville, a. Queenbeyan—Wm. Lightbody, a.

Camden and Wollongong—No resident missionary.

Port Macquarie—Vacant at present. Murrirundi—No resident missionary.

Moreton Bay—George Poole, super.

AUSTRALIA FELIX.

Melbourn—Henry G. Gaud; John Harcourt, assistant missionary.

Geelong—Thomas B. Harris.

Portland Bay and Port Fairy—No resident missionary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide—D. J. Draper, T. N. Hull; W. C. Currey, assistant missionary; William Longbottom, sup.

Burra-Burra—John C. Thrum, a.

Willunga—W. Lowe, assist. miss.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Swan River—John Smithies.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

Hobart Town and New Norfolk—John Eggleston, Jonathan Innes.

Ross, &c.—John A. Manton.

Launceston—Edward Sweetman, Francis Tuckfield.

Westbury—Jabez B. Waterhouse.

Oatlands—James Learmouth. One wanted.

II.—THE NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT, NORTHERN SECTION.

W. Lawry, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in New Zealand, and Visitor of the Missions in the Friendly and Feejee Islands. John Hobbs, Deputy Chairman of the Northern Section of the New Zealand District; J. Whiteley, Deputy Chairman of the Middle Section; and J. Watkin, Deputy Chairman of the southern section.

Auckland and Pehiakura—Walter Lawry, Thomas Buddle, Henry H. Lawry.

J. H. Fletcher has charge of the school for the education of the children of the Missionaries in New Zealand, the Friendly Islands, and Feejee.

Alexander Reid is Master of the Native Training Institution.

Mangungu and Wangaroe—J. Hobbs. Waima and Newark—John Warren. Wairoa (Kaipara)—James Buller.

MIDDLE SECTION.

Kawhia, Beecham-dale, (Aotea,) and Mokau—J. Whitely, G. Smales. New Plymouth (Taranaki North)—Henry H. Turton.

Taranaki South and Waitatara—G. Stannard, assistant missionary.

Waingoroe—James Wallis.

Waipa and Wakatumutuma—George Buttle.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Waimate and Patea—William Kirk. Wanganui—William Woon.

Port Nicholson, Cloudy Bay, and Kapiti—J. Watkin, John Aldred.

Nelson and Motuika (Middle Island)—Samuel Ironside.

Waikowaiti, near Otago (Middle Island)—Charles Creed.

III.—THE FRIENDLY ISLANDS DISTRICT.

Peter Turner, Chairman of the District: Tongatabu—P. Turner, W. Webb, 2nd, G. Daniel, G. Miller, 2nd.

Haabai—Matthew Wilson, T. West. Vavau—Stephen Rabone, Thomas Adams, Walter J. Davis.

Niuatobutabu and Niuafoou—Benjamin Latuselu, Native assist. miss. N.B.—Innui or Savage Island, and Uvea, or Wallis's Island, are chiefly under the care of native teachers, English missionaries are earnestly requested.

N.B.—John Thomas is returning home.

IV.—THE FEEJEE DISTRICT.

Richard B. Lyth, Chairman of the District.
Lakemba—James Calvert, David Hazlewood, John Malvern. N.B. D. Hazlewood shall reside at Omo.
Viwa and Bau—Richard B. Lyth.
Bua—Thomas Williams, 2nd.
Nandy—J. Watsford, J. Ford. N.B. Lomaloma, Oneata, Ovalau, Nokoratumba, and Rotumah, are chiefly under the care of native teachers.

III. AFRICA.

SOUTHERN AFRICA.

I.—THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE DISTRICT.

Thomas L. Hodgson, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in the Cape of Good Hope.
Cape Town, Rondebosch—Thomas L. Hodgson, Barnabas Shaw, Benjamin Ridsdale.
Wynberg, Simon's Town, &c. Matthew Godman.
Stellenbosch—Edward Edwards.
Somerset (West)—Richard Ridgill.
Khamies-Berg (Little Namaqualand)—Joseph Jackson.
Nisbett Bath (Great Namaqualand)—John A. Baillie, asst. missionary.
Concordiaville (Damaraland)—Rd. Haddy.
Elephant-Fountain (Damaraland)—Joseph Tindall.
Roode-Volk (Damaraland)—One wanted.

II.—THE ALBANY AND KAFFRARIA DISTRICT.

(COLONIAL CIRCUITS.)

William Shaw, Chairman of the district, and General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions in South Eastern Africa.
Graham's Town—Wm. Shaw, 1st, Horatio Pierce, Geo. Smith, 2nd.
Salem and Farmerfield—Ebenezer D. Hepburn, assistant missionary.
Bathurst and Lower Albany—John Smith, 2d.
Fort-Beaufort and Upper Albany.—John Ayliff, George Chapman.
Port-Elizabeth and Uitenhage—John Wilson, 2nd.
Cradock—John Edwards.
Somerset—George H. Green.

D'Urban (Fingo Mission), and Fort Peddie—Henry H. Dugmore. One wanted.

Newton-Dale and Waterloo-Bay (Fingo Mission). No resident missionary. N.B. The ministers of the colonial circuits are to change regularly under the direction of the general superintendent.

BRITISH KAFFRARIA.

Mount-Coke—William Impey.
King William's Town—John W. Appleyard.
Wesleyville and East London—William Sargent.
Haslope-Hills and Kamastone—William Shepstone.
Lesseyton, Invani, and Bonkolo—Joseph C. Warner.
Wittebergen—Johannes P. Bertram.
KAFFRARIA PROPER. I.—AMAXOSA.
Butterworth—One to be sent.
Beecham-Wood—Under the care of native teachers.
Krilli's Mission (Hintza's Tribe)—Francis P. Gladwin.

II.—ABATEMBU.

Clarkebury—J. Steward Thomas.
 Morley—William H. Garner.

III.—AMAMPONDO.

Buntingville—No resident missionary.
Shawbury—No resident missionary.
Palmerston (Faku's Tribe)—Thomas Jenkins.

PORT NATAL AND AMAZULU.

D'Urban—William C. Holden.
Pieter-Mauritz-Berg—W. J. Davis.
Kwangubeni (Zwaartkops)—George Parsonson.
Indaleni—James Allison. N.B. On all the stations in Kaffraria, the brethren shall change on the Sunday, each with the nearest to him, once at least in every quarter.

III.—THE BECHUANA DISTRICT.

James Cameron, Chairman of the district.
Thaba-Unchu (Baralongs), and Lokualo (Ligoia)—James Cameron. One earnestly requested.
Plaatberg (Newlanders and Basutos), Mirametsu (Korannas), Lishuani (Basutos and Griquos)—Richard Giddy; Joseph D. M. Luboff, &c.

Umpukani (Basutos and Fingos)—G. Schreiner, assistant missionary.
Imparani, Sevumelo, and Moteng (Basutos)—C. D. Van Soelin, a. Colesberg—Purdon Smalles.
Bakaleque and Bakuakua—Vacant for the present. N.B. On all the stations in the district, the brethren shall change on the Sunday, each with the nearest to him, once at least in every quarter of the year.

WESTERN AFRICA.

I.—SIERRA LEONE.

Thomas Raston, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions at Sierra Leone.
Free Town, &c.—Thos. Raston, John Lewis, 2nd, Joseph Wright, native missionary, Walter Garry.
Hastings, &c.—Charles Knight, native missionary, G. H. Decker, n. a.
York, &c.—Richard Hart.

II.—THE GAMBIA.

Henry Badger, General Superintendent of the Gambia Missions.
St. Mary's and Barra-Point—Henry Badger, George Meadows.
Ngabatang—Vacant.
McCarthy's Island—Jos. May, n. a.

III.—THE GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, AND OTHER PARTS OF GUINEA.

Thomas Freeman, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions in Guinea.
Cape-Coast Town, Dixcove, Sekundi, &c.—Thomas B. Freeman.
Anamabu, Akroful, &c.—No resident missionary.
Domonasi, Abassa, Mansu, &c.—Henry Wharton.
British Akrah, Winnibah, &c.—Frederick Hart.
Ashanti—Charles Hilliard; John Hagan, native assistant missionary.
Badagry and Abbeokuta—J. A. Martin, native assistant missionary.

IV.—AMERICA.

WEST INDIES. I.—THE ANTIGUA DISTRICT.

James Cox, Chairman of the district and General Superintendent of the Missions in the Antigua district.
Antigua—William Fiddler, James Horne, T. James, Geo. Sargeant.
Dominica—George Blanchflower, Joshua Jordan.
Montserrat—Thomas Pearson, 3rd.

Nevis—R. Hawkins, A. J. Thompson.
St. Christopher's—Jas. Cox, Thos. Pearson, 2nd, S. Simons, S. Smyth, Wm. F. Turtle; John Mortier, sup.
St. Eustatius and St. Bartholomew—Benjamin Tregaskis.
St. Martin's and Anguilla—William T. Waymouth; John Hodge, sup.
Tortola—Wm. Satchell; Thos. M. Chambers, assistant missionary.

II.—THE ST. VINCENT'S AND DEMERARA DISTRICTS.

William Bannister, Chairman of the district and General Superintendent of the Missions in St. Vincent's and Demerara district.
St. Vincent's, Kingstown—William Bannister, Thomas Butcher, John E. Ellison, Edward Collier.
St. Vincent's, Biabou—Wm. Hudson, Wm. Cleever, Richard Wrench.
Grenada—Henry Hurd.
Trinidad—W. L. Binks, S. Brown, 3rd.
Tobago—Davis Barley; Js. Elliott, a.
Demerara, George Town—J. Bickford, John Horsford, Joseph Biggs. N.B. Joseph Biggs is to reside at the Arabian Coast.
Demerara, Mahaica—Wm. Limmex.
Demerara, Victoria—Wm. Heath.
Barbadoes—John Corlett, James Banfield, Henry Padghan.

III.—THE JAMAICA DISTRICT.

Jonathan Edmondson, Chairman of the district, and General Superintendent of the Missions and Schools in Jamaica.
Kingston—J. Edmondson, W. West, G. Savery, S. Burrell, W. Tyson.
Montego Bay and Lucea—William Moss, Thomas Phelps.
Spanish Town—John G. Manly.
Morant Bay—Edward Frazer.
Grateful-Hill and Stony-Hill—Rt. A. Johnson.
Falmouth—David Kerr.
St. Anne's Bay—E. S. Thompson.
Ocho Rios—William Sinclair.
Beechamville and Watsonville—Martin Young. One wanted.
Bath and Port Morant—J. Atkins, H. Carter, A. Foote, G. Smith, 4th.
Port Antonio—George Millsom.
Guy's Hill—John Mearns.
Clarendon—James Rowden; John Vaz, assistant missionary.
Savannah-la-Mar—W. G. Stedman.

Mount Ward—Edwin Blake.
 Brown's Town—Timothy Curtis.
 Duncan's—Richard Hornabrook.
 Yallahs and Bethesda—W. Hodgson.
 Mount Fletcher—Henry B. Foster.
 Linstead—Henry B. Britten.
 Belize and Charibb Town—(Honduras Bay)—J. Webster, H. W. Haime.

IV.—THE BAHAMA DISTRICT.

Isaac Whitehouse, Chairman of the district, and General Superintendent of the Missions in the Bahama and Bermuda Islands.

New Providence—Isaac Whitehouse, Samuel Annear.

Eleuthera, First (Rock Sound, &c.)—W. Williams 3rd, assistant mis.

Eleuthera, Second (Governor's Harbour, &c.)—John B. Selley.

Harbour Island—Thos. Lofthouse.

Abaco (Green-Turtle Bay, &c.)—William English.

Turk's Island—William Ritchie.

Bermuda (Hamilton, &c.)—John B. Brownell; Thos. H. Smith, sup.

Bermuda (St. George's, &c.)—James Aldis.

V.—THE HAYTI DISTRICT.

Mark B. Bird, Chairman of the district, and General Superintendent of the Hayti Missions.

Port-au-Prince—M. B. Bird; Joseph A. Heureaux, assistant missionary.

Port-au-Plaat and Samana—Wm. Towler.

Jeremie—William T. Cardy.

Cape Haitien and Gonaives—James T. Hartwell.

Cayes—St. Denis Bauduy.

THE BRITISH DOMINIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

I.—MISSIONS IN CANADA WEST.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

Enoch Wood, General Superintendent of Missions in Canada West.

St. Clair—Thos. Fawcett, Jas. Gray.

Muncey—S. D. Rice, Abram Sickles.

Sahgeeng—John K. Willistone.

Grand River—Rowley Heyland.

New Credit—William Ryerson.

Snake Island—William Young.

Schoogog—One to be sent.

Alderville—Wm. Case, S. Brownell.

Rice and Mud Lake—R. Brooking, John Sunday.

Rama and Orilia—Horace Dean.

Beausoliel and French River—Wm. Herkimer.

Owen's Sound—David Sawyer.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS IN THE NEW SETTLEMENTS.

Gosfield and Amherstburgh—Richd. Whiting, Edwin Cemet.

Mono—John Goodfellow.

Notawasaga—One to be sent.

St. Vincent—One to be sent.

Barrie—L. O. Rice. One to be sent.

Brock—William Steer.

Arremosa—John Sanderson.

Sydenham—William Dignam.

Goderich—J. Williams, J. Laird.

Adelaide—Ozias Barber.

Wardville—Edward Sallows. One to be sent.

Stratford—James Hutchinson.

Peel—Robert Lockhead.

Guelph—J. Spencer, C. Fish.

Chippewa—R. E. Tupper, G. Case.

Seneca—J. Baxter, Wm. S. Griffin.

Shannonville—Daniel Wright.

Norwood—William Norton.

Mormora—Abram Dayman.

Hungerford—Joseph Reynolds.

Sherbrook—Michael Baxter.

Cornwall—W. H. Williams, L. Morton.

Osgood—Henry Shaller.

St. Andrews—Fras. Coleman, John Armstrong, 2nd.

Bonchere—Richard Wilson.

Buckingham—John Armstrong.

Clarendon—David Jennings.

II.—CANADA (EASTERN DISTRICT.)

Matthew Lang, Chairman of the District and General Superintendent.

Montreal—J. Jenkins, C. de Wolfe, A. M., Chas. Lavell, Henry Cox.

Québec—C. Churchill, L. Taylor.

Three Rivers—Malcolm M'Donald.

Wesleyville—One wanted.

St. John's and Chambly—M. Lang, John Douglas.

Huntingdon—James Brock.

Russelton—Hugh Montgomery.

Odell-Town and Hemingford—J. C. Davidson, Gifford Dorey.

Clarenceville—Edmund S. Ingalls.

St. Armand's—John Tomkins.

Dunham—William Scott.

Shefford—Rufus A. Flandera.

Stanstead—John Borland.

Compton—Thomas Campbell.

Sherbrooke—Henry Lanton.
Melborne & Danville—B. Slight, A.M.
Leeds—One wanted.

III.—THE NOVA SCOTIA DISTRICT.
Ephraim Evans, Chairman of the District
and General Superintendent.

Halifax—E. Evans, J. M'Murray;
Wm. Bennett, supernumerary.
Halifax County—Geo. O. Heustis.
Lunenburg—Roland Morton.
Liverpool and Mill's Village—Alex-
ander W. M'Leod. One wanted.
Shelborne—Robert A. Temple.
Barrington—One wanted.
Yarmouth—Richard Weddell.
Horton and Cornwallis—Thos. H.
Davis, James Narraway.
Windsor—John Marshall.
Newport and Maitland—H. Pope,
1st, Robert E. Crane.
Truro and River John—W. M'Carty.
Amherst—William Croscombe.
Meccan and Parrsborough—One
wanted.
Wallace—Jeremiah V. Jost.
River Philip—One wanted.
Guysborough—Wesley C. Beals.

CAPE BRETON.

Sydney—Richard Smith.
Ship-Harbour—One wanted.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Charlotte Town—F. Smallwood, H.
Pope, 2nd. One wanted; J. P.
Strong, supernumerary.
Bedeque—James Buckley.
Tryon and Crapaud—One wanted.
Murray-Harbour—One wanted.

IV.—NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT.
Richard Knight, Chairman of the District
and General Superintendent.

St. John, South (Germain-street,
&c.)—Rd. Knight, Robert Cooney
St. John, North (Portland)—Wm
Smith, 2nd.
St. John, West (Carlton)—Henry
Daniel, James Taylor, 2nd.
Fredericton—Wm. Temple. One
wanted.
Nashwaak—One wanted.
Sheffield, &c.—William Smithson.
Mill Town—Ingram Sutcliffe.
St. Stephen's and St. David's—Geo.
M. Barratt.

St. Andrew's—George Miller.
Sackville—James G. Hennigar.
Point de Bute—George Johnson.
Petitcodiac—Robert A. Chesley.
Hopewell—Christopher Lockhart.
Sussex Vale—Joseph F. Bent.
Woodstock and Andover—J. Allison.
Annapolis—Michael Pickles.
Bridgetown—Arthur M'Nutt.
Aylesford—Richard Shepherd,
Digby and Sissiboo—One wanted.
Miramichi—Sampson Busby.
Richibucto—John Prince.
Bathurst—William Allen, 2nd.
Dalbousie—One earnestly requested
Wesleyan Academy, Mount Alison,
Westmoreland—H. Pickard, A.M.,
Principal; A. Desbrisay, Chaplain.

V.—THE NEWFOUNDLAND DISTRICT.
Edmund Botterell, Chairman of the Dis-
trict and General Superintendent.

St. John's—Edmund Botterell, Elias
Brettell; Richard Williams, sup.
Harbour Grace—Wm. E. Shenstone.
Carbonear—William Faulkner.
Blackhead—Thomas Angwin.
Pelican—James England.
Island Cove—Samuel W. Sprague.
Port-de-Grave—John P. Ady.
Brigus—John Snowball.
Trinity—One wanted.
Bonavista—Adam Nightingale.
Green Bay—John Brewster.
Burin—John S. Peach.
Grand Bank—James Norris.
Hant's Harbour—One wanted.
Hermitage Cove—One wanted.

TERRITORIES OF THE HUDSON'S BAY
COMPANY.

Norway-House, Lake Winnipeg—
William Mason.
Moose-Factory—One wanted.
Lac-la-Pluie and Fort Alexander—
Peter Jacobs, assist. missionary.
Edmonton and Rocky Mountain—
One wanted.

These missions are, for the present, placed
under the direction of the Rev. John
Jenkins, superintendent of Montreal.
(Thomas Haswell, and Richard D. Griffith
are returning home)

Contractions.—a, assistant missionary.
n, native missionary. n.a, native as-
sistant missionary, sup, supernumerary.





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