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### EASTERN GENERAL AGENT.

MR. WALTER KERR—for many years an esteemed elder of our Church—is the duly authorized agent for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. He will collect outstanding accounts, and take names of new subscribers. Friends are invited to give any assistance in their power to Mr. Kerr in all the congregations he may visit.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1887.

THE American Presbyterian Church raised last year for Home Missions, \$648,268; for Foreign Missions, \$784,157. These princely offerings prove that Calvinism is not dying over there to any great extent.

THE *Christian at Work* has the following rather grim observations to make about union between the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches:

As we read the proceedings of the Southern Presbyterian Assembly it looks as if the cemetery were destined to play an important part in the matter of the coming Presbyterian reunion.

It is a sad fact, but still a fact, that the cemetery has to play an important part in many good movements. How often we hear people say, "Yes, that would be a good thing to do, but it cannot be done as long as Mr. So-and-so is to the fore." That is simply another way of saying, "When Mr. So-and-so is laid in the cemetery, this good thing may be done." Surely it cannot be a very comfortable reflection for a good man that his existence on earth blocks some good work.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States laid down the following platform the other day as the one on which it will be willing to discuss union with any Christian Church:

1. All believers in Christ constitute one body; mystical, yet real, and destined to grow into the fulness of Him who filleth all in all.
2. The universal visible Church consists of all those throughout the world who profess the true religion, together with their children.
3. Mutual recognition and reciprocity between the different bodies who profess the true religion, is the first and essential step toward practical Church unity.

Plank No. 3 of this platform is in exact line with some remarks made in these columns last week. Let there be first "mutual recognition and reciprocity between the different bodies who profess the true religion," and when this happy condition of things exists it will be time enough to talk about organic union. This is really "the first and essential step toward practical Church unity," and until this first and essential step is taken there is no use in talking about organic union. Where is the sense in discussing organic union while some clergymen cannot go farther than a "street acquaintance" with their brethren, and some of the Churches frequently steal their neighbours' sheep and lambs. Recognition and reciprocity must come before union.

THE American Assembly have a committee on annual concerts for prayer. In their report last week this committee made the following recommendations among others:

That the last Thursday of January be observed as a day of prayer for colleges, theological seminaries and other educational institutions in this land, and also at mission schools and colleges, that all these institutions may become the source not only of knowledge, but that wisdom which sanctifies knowledge and makes it effective for good.

That on children's day special prayer be made in all the Churches for the baptized children of the Church and for the personal consecration of the youth of the Church to holy lives.

That the Sabbath in November, set apart for special instruction in missions, be kept as a day of prayer for more intelligent knowledge and zeal in this great cause.

Whilst we believe that colleges and the baptized children of the Church and missions should be prayed for every Sabbath in every congregation, it is also a good thing to have annual concerts for prayer when special supplication should be made for theological seminaries, Sabbath schools and missions. The reflex influence would be good. Special prayer for professors and students would deepen the Church's interest in our college work. Special prayer for the children could hardly fail to remind parents of their duty, and children of a certain age that they should take covenant vows on their own behalf. Special prayer for missions would aid the cause much more than some missionary meetings we hear and read about. No doubt these annual concerts for prayer have much to do with the marvellous work the great American Church is carrying on year after year.

CANADIAN Methodists have always been noted for loyalty to their Church. We would not say that the typical Methodist stands by his Church right or wrong, but we do say that he hardly ever thinks his Church wrong. However noisy he may be at times when he does not get his own way—however loud he may talk when Conference fails to send the right man or remove the wrong one—you nearly always see the good man quietly back in the traces in a few weeks, pulling as kindly as ever. Such being the case it was with no ordinary astonishment that we have observed mutterings of discontent at various times since last September against bringing Victoria into the University scheme for Federation. The highest court of Methodism decided at that time to remove Victoria to Toronto at the earliest date practicable, and the history and genius of Methodism led everybody who knew the Church to believe that the minority would give way at once, and loyally help to carry out the decision of the Supreme Court. It is no secret that they have not all done so. The action taken the other day by the Montreal Conference is not, as a city daily described it, "disloyalty" or "insubordination," but it has an unpleasant look. An Annual Conference stands in about the same relation to the General Conference as one of our Synods stands to the General Assembly. If any Synod tried to thwart, or obstruct, or even delay action taken by the Supreme Court, that Synod would have a course of discipline before it. No Synod would ever dream of doing anything of the kind. Disguise the fact as we may, the Montreal Conference did review the work of a superior court. Some people think it did a good deal more.

PATRIOTIC Canadians, of all political parties, will learn with deep regret that the Hon. Edward Blake has been compelled through ill health to give up in the meantime his duties as a member of the Dominion Parliament. Public men of pre-eminent ability and pure character are not so plentiful in this world that a small country like Canada can well afford to lose the services of a statesman like Mr. Blake. Though not in the Government, his immense store of knowledge and splendid intellectual powers were of great service in moulding the legislation of the country. One of the bad things about party government is that an Opposition leader rarely gets credit from his friends, or his opponents, or his country, for the good work he may do in helping to shape the legislation of Parliament. Mr. Blake at Ottawa, or Mr. Meredith in Toronto, may do more than half a dozen other members in the way of making good laws for the people, but hardly anybody gives them credit for doing anything unless they succeed in embarrassing the Government, or turning it out. Mr. Meredith is one of the most useful members in the Local Parliament, but some, even of his own friends, consider him a failure because he cannot turn Mr. Mowat out of power. Mr. Blake has relinquished a magnificent income and seriously impaired health in public service, but it is no secret that men calling themselves Liberals are ready to taunt him with failure simply because he has not defied Sir John. Are Canadians such a lot of narrow-minded pugilistic partisans that they consider no man is working for the body politic except when he is knocking over some political opponent? Apart from all political considerations, we are sure the earnest hope and prayer of every patriotic Canadian will be that Mr. Blake may soon regain his health, and that, whether in Opposition or in the Government, Canada may long enjoy the benefit of his splendid abilities.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THIS evening the Thirteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada meets in Winnipeg. To many of the delegates the distance they have to travel is great. The commissioners from the Provinces down by the sea might well regard their duty as one of great responsibility. The journey alone is a formidable undertaking, but they are hardy men and stalwart Presbyterians, and a goodly representation from the Eastern Section of the Church have resolved to do their duty and, judging from former years, they may be relied upon to do it well. It is all but certain that the East will have the honour of giving the Moderator to the General Assembly. The choice certainly is a happy one. The pastor of Fort Massey Church is beloved for his father's sake, and none the less warmly esteemed for his own sake. He is a loyal-hearted and loyal son of the Church, and from his early years has been faithful and zealous in the work of the pastorate. He is admired for his talent and worth, and beloved for his large-hearted benevolence and rare gentility. For his manliness and amiability he is esteemed from Halifax to Vancouver, and his single-hearted sincerity and kindness are not without recognition from the Giant's Causeway in Ireland to John o' Groat's on the North Sea. If tact, knowledge of business and suavity can allay or prevent ecclesiastical ripples at Winnipeg, then the present will be as peaceful and happy an Assembly as the last. It would be difficult to conceive a more harmonious meeting than that of last year at Hamilton.

A good healthful breeze, is not, however, in all cases a bad thing. It dissipates stagnant vapours of prejudice and discontent. It is not in every instance the brother who raises his voice in indignant protest against what to him appears wrong that is guilty of disturbing the harmony of an ecclesiastical gathering. He may have just cause for his indignation, and he does good service by calling attention to the supposed wrong. A sly trickster at school, who delights in mischief, pinches his unsophisticated neighbour, who on the instant raises a howl of pain and indignant remonstrance. The teacher swoops down upon the howler, while the mischievous scamp looks on with a hurt expression of countenance because the good order of the school has been disturbed. The member with a grievance or the brother who endeavours to ventilate a wrong is not necessarily a discontented growler, nor *prima facie* an offensive person. Frank, straightforward Christian manliness, and the considerate forbearance that Christian brethren owe to each other, will make scenes sometimes witnessed "in another place" impossible in a General Assembly.

Though indications are wanting that the present Assembly will be called upon to deal with exciting subjects, it will be an important Assembly nevertheless. Every Assembly is. The intelligent and efficient consideration and guidance of the ordinary work of the Church is after all the most important that can occupy the attention of the court. But this Assembly marks an era in the Church's history. People will date from the time that the General Assembly first met in Winnipeg.

### FIFTY YEARS A QUEEN.

IN history the instances of sovereigns who have reigned for half a century are of rare occurrence. The representative of the supreme authority in the United States can never dream of holding the Presidency for a longer period than eight years. The venerable Emperor of Germany is older in years than her Majesty, but he was an old man when he succeeded to the Prussian throne, and it was not till 1870 that he received the imperial title. The exceptional length of the Queen's reign has added interest to the jubilee celebrations that have been or are yet to be held throughout her vast dominions.

Beneath all that is artificial in connection with the jubilee excitement, there is a strong underlying sentiment of profound respect and esteem for the noble lady who for the last fifty years has presided over the destinies of the British Empire. She holds a place in the affections of all classes of her subjects, and their well-wishes, both expressed and unuttered, will be fervent and sincere. Not only amid the stately grandeur of Westminster Abbey will jubilee odes be chanted, but from humble hearts throughout the Empire will rise the familiar, but none the less sincere, prayer, "God Save the Queen."