

British American Presbyterian, 102 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

OUR GENERAL AGENT. Mr. CHARLES NICOL, General Agent for the Presbyterian in Western Ontario publishing the interests of this journal.

British American Presbyterian, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1877.

Special to Subscribers.

Any Subscriber sending us, during the month of January, the name of a New Subscriber with the remittance \$2.00 for the year.

THE QUESTION OF HOLINESS.

A Conference of Christians who profess to have attained absolute holiness of life and character, was lately held in the vicinity of New York.

Seriously speaking, it shocks our conscience to hear of these people speaking of having attained holiness, and citing as proof that they have given up the use of tobacco, that they have no longer a liking for whiskey and beer, and that their eyes and ears are no longer distracted by earthly sights and sounds.

This conference is a sort of mutual admiration society. If any of our readers feel qualified for admission into their ranks we will be happy to furnish them with the address of the renowned Apostle of Holiness.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

Following the holiday season of Christmas and New Year's day, we have the week of prayer. This year it will be really the second week of January embracing the period between the seventh and fourteenth of the month.

It is certainly interesting to regard the week as somewhat typical of the Alliance, from which it derives its origin. The Week of Prayer is observed throughout the world, because the Evangelical Alliance circumscribes the globe.

In another aspect the week of Prayer is of the deepest interest to reflective men. It is a time when all the churches harmoniously blend together, and by their united praying attitude give meaning to the prayer of their Common Lord.

DEFECTS IN GIVING.

In a preceding article we enumerated three defects in giving for the Lord's cause on the part of professedly Christian people, viz., the comparatively small number who give at all, the giving of the same amount year after year by many, notwithstanding their increased ability to contribute.

It is true that owing to the circumstances of our country the number of our merchants and others having great surplus wealth is limited, yet there are in our land, and in the communion of our own church, not a few to whom God has given the ability to devise liberal things if they only had the will, and yet alas! how few have the will!

Another defect in giving arises from erroneous views as to the proportion the Lord requires of us. We have met, for instance, persons who believed it to be their duty to contribute a tenth yearly to the Lord's cause; but who, when questioned, were found to entertain the idea that it was a tenth of their clear profits after deducting the expenses of living.

There are many other defects in giving that might be named, such as the questionable means employed in certain cases to raise money for Christian work, etc., etc.; but for the present we leave these untouched, and close by noticing as a serious defect the lack of due discrimination on the part of some in the apportionment of riches.

It is right to visit a sick neighbour and pray with him, but what would be thought of the man who habitually neglected his closet and his own family altar, to spend all his time in praying with neighbours? So, though it be a plain duty to contribute a certain proportion of our surplus means for some one church scheme, it by no means follows that we would be doing our duty to give all towards it, and leave others equally or more needy to suffer thereby.

To lead to this, and thus remedy the several defects we have enumerated, we should like to see a standing committee on Systematic Benevolence, appointed by the General Assembly, as was the case formerly in at least one of the branches of the church.

DR. CAMPBELL, Principal of Aberdeen University, has died at his residence, Old Aberdeen. He was appointed Principal in 1855, and previously was Professor of Greek.

The vestry of the Anglican Cathedral of Quebec, in view of the large and increasing taxation of the city, recently resolved that they were prepared to pay their full share of taxes on that property, provided the property of all other religious corporations was likewise taxed.

The N. Y. Christian Weekly of a recent date says:—"The reports of mission societies for 1874-5 show that the Congregationalists gave \$2.42 a member, the Canada Methodists \$1.80, the Presbyterians \$1.25, the Episcopalians \$1.22, and the Methodist 42 cents a member.

Messrs. W. Mowat & Son, bankers of Stratford, offer to find investment for money on mortgage at eight per cent. on improved farms in their vicinity, which is one of the best agricultural districts of Ontario.

A new Methodist church in Stockholm, Sweden, erected by the self-denial of its members, many of whom denied themselves new coats and new gowns for the purpose, was dedicated by Bishop Andrews in October, and is already too small for the crowds who come to hear the Gospel.

Ministers and Churches.

We are sorry to hear from the Presbyterian Clerks and our readers generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general epitome of all local church news.

St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, has arranged for a very attractive programme for the 7th, 8th, and 9th of January. Rev. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College, will officiate on Sabbath 7th, and deliver one of his popular lectures on Monday evening following; and Tuesday evening, 8th, the Sabbath School anniversary will be held.

Rev. H. Currie, who has been for the past two years in charge of the Presbyterian congregation at Napier, has accepted a call from Kedy, Peabody and Desboro', in Owen Sound Presbytery; at a salary of \$700, along with manse and glebe. Mr. Currie preached his farewell sermon on the first Sunday in January. Mr. Ferguson, of Alvinston, was appointed to preach the Napier church vacant on the 14th prox.

The young congregation at Hydo Park, near London, though only organized a little over a year, has built a beautiful little brick church, finished it handsomely and paid for it all but the sum of three hundred dollars, which will also be paid during the current year.

On Monday evening, the young people of Theford, called at the residence of their pastor, the Rev. H. Currie, B.A., when Mr. Ryan on behalf of the people, read a very kind and flattering address, and ended by pressing upon the rev. gentleman the acceptance of a costly carpet, accompanied by a beautiful silver cake-basket for his sister.

The social gathering in the Presbyterian Church, at Norwood, on Christmas evening, was a decided success. The building was crowded to the doors, and a perfect sea of happy faces greeted the performers. The church was tastefully decorated with evergreens, and on the wall over the pulpit was a large scroll with the Presbyterian motto, "nec tamen consumebatur," and underneath this an elegant crown, symbol of loyalty and martyrdom, surrounded with evergreens.

The Presbyterian Church in Fenslon, after being enlarged, was re-opened for divine service on Sabbath the 17th of December. Able discourses were delivered by the Rev. A. McKay, M.A., of Eldon, and the pastor of the congregation, Rev. D. McDonald, the former conducting the English services, and preaching from 1st Tim. v. 17, the latter following in Gaelic, taking as the basis of his remarks "Christ's interview with the Samaritan woman." The church was crowded to its utmost capacity and the large shed just erected, though over four hundred feet long, was found to be too small that day.

The new church at Bracebridge brought to its present state of completion during the past season, was formally opened for public worship on Sabbath the 17th inst. Very appropriate discourses were preached morning and evening to large and attentive audiences by the Rev. J. L. Murray, of Woodville, and in the afternoon by the Rev. G. M. Brown, of the O. M. Church. On the evening following the usual tea-meeting was held, the chair being occupied by the Hon. J. McMurich, of Toronto, who discharged the duties of the position