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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor.

Ottawa, Wednesday, Sept. 18th, 1901.

The appeal for men to carry on the work in the Northwest is again in our ears. The strain of that life is so great that every year men who have been working there return to Ontario and the other older provinces. Their places must be filled, and the new places need men. The Church has responded to appeals, but only as if she were half awake to the existence of the cry. Some of our Ontario pastors have visited the North-west during the past summer, and could do good service by repeating the appeal or its peoples for spiritual food.

The colleges are again preparing for the working session. There is as yet no evidence of the strength of the classes, but we do not apprehend that there will be any serious diminution. Every year there will be more of our young men who go to other institutions. All who could do so went in former years; and the number who can afford the increased expense is increasing. This does not indicate an increasing dissatisfaction with our own colleges, but merely indicates the desire to obtain a wider culture, and better preparation by training under different conditions, and securing another view-point from which to look out upon the field of religious knowledge.

The best antidote for the teachings of the anarchist is to be found in the Christian home. It is worth while for the father to take a few minutes from his money-making to talk over these things with his boys, and to trace back anarchistic doctrines to their origin, and out to their legitimate end. That ten minutes talk may be of inestimable value to the boy in years that are not very far away, when he must take his share in government. It may be of considerable value to the man, too, who finds his own knowledge of what is coming to be a terrible menace to national life, all too misty. But the children who have been entrusted to him to train for citizenship demand better things at his hands than their clothing and pocket money.

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THE SORROW OF A NATION.

The civilized world joins with the people of the United States to-day in their sorrow because of the death of President McKinley. The horror with which the news of the assassin's dastardly act was received was tempered by the apparently splendid recovery of the illustrious victim from the shock of the wounding, and the promise of his surgeons that he would live. The world was going back to its work again, sobered indeed, and watchful, but full of energy as before. Scarcely had the tools been taken up before there came the ominous message of fatigue and restlessness. Then came in rapid succession the news of collapse and of the passing of the representative of the nation. Even yet we have scarcely realized the full meaning of the brief message, nor has the bitterness of their sorrow been tasted by the American people.

Mr. McKinley was a good, as well as an able man. He was a man richly endowed, and one whose career had developed those endowments in a remarkable degree; but he had used his well-developed powers wisely. He was a Christian man. The closing hours in the chamber of death, before he sank into unconsciousness, were triumphant. There is a sacredness pertaining to the passing of a soul that should guard it from intrusion, but we are glad that such a splendid testimony was given by this servant of the Master to His power to sustain through great suffering, and to calm the soul when the tempest must have swept it with tremendous force.

Not less striking is the fortitude of the one who has been most to him for many years, and who was nearer to him than even his great trust in this crisis. The first thought of the stricken President was for Mrs. McKinley, and his last smile on earth was given to her. It is not many weeks since she looked back to him from the verge, and when the bitterness of death was almost passed, she came back again to walk with him the rest of the way. Her step is still faltering and the one who chose out an easy path for her, and with his strong arm held her up, is gone from her side. In her loneliness and sorrow the sympathy of the people will be sweet to her, but more than all will be the words spoken when she was passing down into the valley from which she returned, and the smile with which he passed from her life into the presence of One who had walked with both.

One turns with reluctance from such a scene to think upon the man who by a mysterious providence has been permitted to be the agent in cutting short so illustrious a life. The man himself is scarcely worth a passing thought. He is the unreasoning tool of a reasonless body of men. An unsexed woman urged them on, and helped them hatch their fiendish plot. To carry it out one must be prepared to risk his life, and the miserable man who fired the shots either offered himself, or agreed to carry out the will of the rest. That such creatures live and crawl among men and women who stand erect and free is one of the strange puzzles of life.

How shall society be protected from such as these? The question has often been

asked, is being debated with the keenest anxiety to-day, by that nation with whom we sympathize so deeply in their sorrow; and by our own in view of the trust even now committed to us. Our future king is already upon our shores, and we have been warned that these inhuman fiends have also marked him for their prey. We may surround him with armed guards, as is done in that land from which many of those creatures come. Is there no other way? Of what do these men and women complain? Have they just cause for complaint, or is it an unreasonable rage against necessary social restraint. If there be cause we should remedy it. If there is none, we should place these men and women who menace the life of every one who represents law and order under restraint, as we do other insane and criminal persons.

INFLUENCE OF CALVINISM.

In the Convocation hall of Manitoba college Rev. Dr. Salmond gave a lecture on "Calvinism; its influence on national life and character." On the platform were Rev. Dr. Bryce, chairman, Hon. C. H. Campbell, Ven. Archdeacon Fortin, D.D., and Rev. C. B. Pitblado. Rev. Dr. Bryce, in a few appropriate words, introduced the lecturer, who pointed out that, owing to lack of time his lecture would have to be confined entirely to Calvin's influence in Great Britain, as America would require separate treatment, as would also the continent of Europe. Not even the avowed enemies of Calvin could deny the mighty influence of his great life and philosophy on the theological thought and energy of the religious world. He was certainly the greatest theologian since the days of St. Augustine and Aquinas, and at the same time he was vastly misapprehended. His theology had often been painted and represented as a cold, heartless and dogmatic creed, devoid of the finer and softer emotions of the human heart. Yet the man possessed warm domestic affections and was a man of generous and affectionate nature. It had been the expressed wish of Melancthon that he should die on Calvin's bosom, and Ernest from whom a not too favorable criticism might be expected, had said that Calvin was the most Christian man of his generation.

Calvinism was one of the two great branches of the Reformation. For nearly half a century it was the prevailing form of doctrine in the Episcopal church. The many mistakes which even educated men had made in regard to Calvinism were ludicrous. It had been called fanatical, puritanical, fatalistic, but it was none of these things. It was rather optimistic, rational and warm-hearted. It was but the development of the doctrines of St. Augustine and Aquinas and others of the older theologians. Its influence on national character had been very great. It had produced a good type of men, and had developed a national life full of strength, energy, seriousness and steadfast resolve. It had made the city of Geneva the centre of a new education, and had influenced education for good the world over. In conclusion Dr. Salmond spoke in high terms of this country, and assured his hearers that the people of Canada could be greatly benefited by a closer study of Calvinism. He promised on his return to tell the people in Scotland what a grand and glorious country Manitoba was.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed on motion of Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick, and tendered to Dr. Salmond by the chairman.