

Robert Baldwin, devised a system of local government for the people. It was predicted by some wise men of that time that this municipal system would bring dire calamities upon the country. The municipal councils were called "Sucking Republics." What one thing in Ontario to-day works better than our municipal system? The prophets were all wrong.

Prophets abound in the Church as well as in the State. We have more prophets now than were found in the Jewish Church at any given time. They predict more things than the Jewish prophets did. Usually they resemble Jeremiah more than Isaiah.

In 1861 a union took place between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in this country. Prophets always flourish when there is union in the air. Some of those in favor of union made most glowing predictions about the marvellous things that union would bring about. Those opposed to union predicted dire calamities. Very few of the blessings and none of the calamities ever came.

In 1875 we had another and much larger union. The prophets on both sides had another good time. Who does not remember the glowing predictions about the Church that was to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific? They were twin brothers to the Confederation speeches about the country that was to extend from—well, we needn't say where. The prophets on the union side did their work well. Those opposed to the union put in some lively work. Not one out of fifty of the predicted blessings or calamities ever came. Perhaps some of them may come yet, but not very likely. The prophets on both sides were wrong again.

In 1870 and 1871 we had a lively time over the organ. The prophets were in clover to the eyes. The prophecies came thick and fast. Glowing predictions were made about the power of the "kist" to build up and destroy. On the one side we were told that the "kist" had marvellous power to draw; on the other that the "kist" would scatter like the Riot Act. The "kist" came, but it did not do either the one or the other. One very sanguine individual said: "We must have music to move the masses." Others declared that the moment the use of the "kist" was sanctioned the Highlanders in Glengarry, Huron and Bruce would bolt to a man. The Highlanders didn't bolt. They stood the "kist" as bravely as their countrymen stood the Russian horse at Balaklava. A Highlander rarely leaves his Church if he is let alone. It is needless to say the music didn't move the masses to any great extent. The masses need something more powerful than a melodeon to move them.

About the same time there was a lively discussion on the use of hymns. The prophets were again to the front. As usual they were wrong. The hymns did some good but no harm.

Modern prophets, like those of the olden time, may be divided into the major and the minor. The major prophets foretell great national and great ecclesiastical events. The minor deal

with small matters. Minor prophets are found in most congregations. Their forte is to predict that certain things will "split the Church." With an air of wisdom that Solomon never assumed in his palmist days they predict that if you don't do just what they advise, dire calamities will be certain to come. The calamities rarely come.

The predictions of the minor prophet would be comparatively harmless were it not that he too often feels under obligations to try to fulfil his predictions. If he is a real good man, if he has enough of grace and is thoroughly loyal to his Church, he will try to avert the calamities he predicts. Some of the men who predicted that people would bolt on the organ question did noble service in keeping them from bolting. All honor to the man who works to prevent the fulfilment of his own predictions. He is a noble specimen of human nature. He is a MAN. But there is always a danger that if a man predicts the Church will split, he may feel bound to try his best to split it. If he predicts "the minister will fail," he may do all he can to make him fail. If he predicts the money cannot be raised, he may be tempted to hinder, so far as he can, the raising of it. In this way prophesying becomes a dangerous business, especially to the prophet.

Moral:—Never prophesy. The future is in God's hands—not ours. We know nothing about it. Prophesying never proves that a man is wise. Usually it proves exactly the reverse. Therefore—NEVER PROPHESEY.

DR. CAMPBELL AND QUEEN'S.

With regard to Rev. Dr. Campbell's letter in another column while we cannot at the present time discuss all his statements we think that he will find he is mistaken in supposing that "the transaction is closed". On two points, however, upon which a direct request is made for information, we must reply.

Our impression is that a majority of the Trustees were in favor of a more definite resolution but that the one referred to was accepted for the sake of unanimity. At all events the Memorial was supported by the Principal, the Chancellor and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in a printed document presented to the Assembly.

In reply to the second question, as to the ability of the trustees to provide pensions, it seems sufficient to point out that there are three Queen's professors now receiving pensions, and that in all three cases the money comes from Mr. Carnegie's private fund.

Other points in Dr. Campbell's communication may be discussed later on; but meanwhile we must confess that we cannot share the good doctor's confidence as to the future action of the Trustee body, of which he is a respected member.

The 'Dreamers' who have arrived at Elkhorn, Man., well armed, say the Doukhobors are the lost ten tribes, and Sharp, the leader, claims he is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah coming to rescue them from their wickedness.

LITERARY NOTES.

The June Fortnightly is full of good things from cover to cover. The opening article is an appreciation of the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, by Sir Francis Channing, M.P. Andrew Lang follows with a review of Anatole France's book on Jean D'Arc, and Alfred Austin writes of Dante's Poetic Conception of Woman. We have space to mention only a small fraction of the reading matter given us this month in the favorite Fortnightly.

The opening article in the June Studio is by A. Lys Baldry and is entitled Some Etchings by Sir Charles Holroyd. Then follows a description of the life and work of Ludwig Michalek, an Austrian Painter-Etcher. Both these articles are accompanied by numerous illustrations showing the character of the work done by these artists. Mrs. Dodsworth contributes an interesting article on Brittany as a Sketching Ground, describing some of the most attractive spots for artists to seek out. Considerable space is given to reviews of the Royal Academy Exhibition and the New Gallery Exhibition, the many and beautiful illustrations giving the reader an excellent idea of this year's work.

Quite the most important article in the July Current Literature—to Canadians at least—is that which describes the able and charming Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada. The writer states that "Brilliant and conspicuous as are all the personalities associated with this month's celebrations of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec, it is Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of the Dominion, who, by a tacit recognition, remains incontestably the most brilliant and the most conspicuous of them all. To Sir Wilfrid, more than to any other one man, is ascribed the prodigious success which has attended every arrangement from the appropriation of the necessary funds to the enlistment of the Prince of Wales, who, as all now know, will honor the occasion with his presence." Hurrah for Sir Wilfrid! Other "Persons in the Foreground" mentioned in this number are Taft, Debs and the notorious Prince Zu Eulenburg, who is described very effectively. The Religion of John Burroughs is discussed at some length, and many other interesting subjects are treated of in this bright number of an exceedingly useful and readable magazine.

The Nineteenth Century and After for June contains a variety of articles, most of which may be called timely. The discussion of the British Tariff will continue to be a favorite topic, especially if the by-elections go against the government; as it will be possible to say that the last election was not a final declaration in favor of Free Trade. This month it is conducted by Sir Roper Lethbridge. That article on "An Imperial Conference of the Church and its Significance" is suggested by the great Pan-Anglican gathering that is now being held in London. "The conflict of Civilizations in India," by H. G. Keene, C.I.E., deals with an important complex subject. "Equality and Elementary" handles a question that is likely for some time to be a burning one. There is a readable and instructive paper on modern art, "Reflections at the Salon and Royal Academy," by H. Heathcote Stetham. It is written in a spirit of fairness and appreciation by one who loves that which is both beautiful and wholesome. When we mention the name of Mr. Herbert Paul in connection with an article on "The Permanence of Wordsworth," it will be seen that literature is not neglected, and that this month it is in good hands.