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Britis i American Presbyterian FRIDAY, MAROII 21, 1878.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Nothing of any consequence has been done at Ottawa during the week. The various Departmental reports show that the country is in a very prosperous condition.

The agitation for the overthrow of the Scottish and English Established Churches seems to be continually gathering strength. Mr. Miall is to bring the matter before Parliament. Those who have entered upon the crusade have their work before them, though we have no doubt that eventually their object will be gained.

In Scotland, the people are all busy electing their School Boards, and getting their new Education Law into tull working order. In general, matters are apparently managed very harmoniously. In some cases we observe the measure is denounced as Infidel in its tendencies, because it does not make the reading of the Bible and the teaching of the Shorter Catechism in all cases imperative. Well meaning people are often too ready in denouncing every measure and every man as "infidel" when they do not quite accord with their notions of the fitness of things.

The Ministerial crisis in England still continues. Mr. Disraeli has definitely de clared that he does not see his way to forming a Ministry. It is possible that Mr. Gladstone may be asked to return to his former position, but he can scarcely be expected to do this without receiving assurances of more thorough allegiance on the part of his professed followers than he has had for some time past. In his desire to conciliate the Roman Catholics, he has disgusted many Protestants, without receiving the empport he desired from the followers of the Pope. We rather think that with all the respect and admiration generally felt for Mr. Gladstone's personal character and gifts, few in Canada, at any rate, of any shade of politics, regret his downfall.

The rejection of the Prohibition Bill on the ground of its n. being in the power of the Local Legislature to meddle with such a subject, has led the Total Abstainers to agitate the whole subject only the more earnestly and to carry the question to the proper place, viz: the Dominion Parliament. Both in Canada and in the States public opinion is becoming more alive to the fact that something must be done to stay the ravages of Intemperance. In the meantime, why do Total Abstainers not try to make use of the law they already possess? By the Dunkin Act a majority of the ratepayers can at once vote that there shall be no be uses issued within a municipality. If Teetotalers cannot enforce that, how could they manage anything more stringent? The fact is, the Legislature can only go with safety as far as it is reached by overwhelming public opinion, and, that public opinion is not ripe for prohibition, is evident from the Dunkin Act remaining a mere dead letter. We are glad to see the cause of temperance gathering strength, but it must become a great deal stronger than it is at present before it can ! ston the manufactule and sale of intoxicating liquors. When the voice of the general public says that this must be done it will be done, but to press it prematurely would only be to invite defeat. We say this with the greatest possible respect for Total Abstainers, and the most ardent adherence to the principles of Total Abstinence. Legislature can do something, but the great work is for every one to become a personal ab-. stained and persude others to do the same. When the great majority have taken that step, prohibition will be easy: without it, tion. we rather fear all more repressive legislation will be vain. It is a great step in advance, he ever, when the general conscience is becoming uneasy over the atrocities of the liquor traffic, and in that very interesting condition we think matters are at

The Local Parliament still continues its Critaination and recrimination siftings. is the order of the day. The proprieties of debate are little thought of, and while each day's sitting costs the country hundreds of dollars, the time is wasted in frivolous and offensive personalities. Some of the accounts for "furnishings ' make the profession of sobriety on the part both of the past and present ministries look very curious There must either have been extensive breakages among the wine glasses provided at the public expense, or a very considerable stock must now be on hand. Still the manner in which time is wasted over what, at the best, are very small matters, is very disgraceful. The Speaker has very little faculty for keeping order, and some of the members have not the slightest notion of propriety. Surely we are not called upon to believe that these persons are the first gentlemen of Ontario.

Young men's christian assoclations.

We are always glad to chronicle the success of any enterprise that is calculated to benefit the general community, and therefore feel pleased to notice the progress made by the Christian young men of Toronto in securing a commodious and elegant edifice in which to hold their meetings and transact the varied business of the Association. During the past week a very successful bazaar was held by the ladies of this city in the new building on Queen street, which realized about \$7,000. In a very short time there is every appearance of the debt being entirely swept away.

There are some other very active and successful associations of a similar description scattered over the country. Every well-wisher of his country must desire that the numbers of these Institutions may be continually increased, and he can practically show his interest in that country in no better way than by extending to the young men of his neighborhood his cordial co-operation and support in establishing such an Association for the benefit of the neighborhood.

A GREAT ABUSE.

The friends of Denominational Colleges

have often pointed to the States as affording

the most convincing proof of the necessity of such institutions. There, they have cried. are people entrammelled by an Established Church, and yet they seem instinctively to betake themselves to Denominational institutions for higher education, rather than have them the common property and uuder the common control of all the sections of the State. The cry now comes from that same country against the wretched policy which has, in this respect, been followed. The New York Independent, in a recent strong and outspoken article, says that this undue multiplying of "colleges" and "universities," to the extent of, we suppose, about three hundred, is exercising a most injurious influence. By the excessive competition thus engendered, the standard of culture is lowered, the churches are oppressed with never ending schemes for college building and endowing, while the professors are over-worked and under-paid, and all is in danger of getting into confusion. The Independent cries out for a nondenominational system. It says that surely "Presbytorians, Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians ought to be able to study chemistry, geology, mathematics, languag es, or history together, without wrangling about beliefs. They can further education by working hand in hand; but they only der it bystriving to labor apart. Cannonballs are much more effective than handfuls of small shot." This seems reasonable enough, and yet it is excessively difficult to get people to believe it. The absurd multiplying of colleges will no doubt eventually cure itself, but what an amount of suffering and loss to the cause of Christ may be incurred before that takes place. The Christian people in the States are no doubt very liberal with their money, but what can be done when single denominations have as many as eight or ten colleges in single States? Let as in Canada take warning and guard against the same mistake. To be sure we are not in great danger, for while in general secular education is pursued at the same seats of learning by the studious youth of the different denominations, there appears a considerable amount of backwardness on the part of many to provide the requisite reans for giving even a thorough theological training to the future pastors of the churches. When wealthy denominations find themselves unable to equip and maintum in reputable order and efficiency a simple theological training institution, there will not be much immediate danger of an undue multiplication of Denoannational Colleges for instruction in the or-

Knowledge, even of Gospel truth, is emptiness, unless love, practically exercised towards God and man, accompany it.

dinary secular branches of a liberal educa-

It is the proper office of faith to believe what thou seest not, and the reward offaith to see who thou hast believed.

TAXATION OF THE WORKING OLASSES.

Professor Leone Levi, England, has prepared a pamphlot setting forth the amount of taxation in the United Kingdom which falls upon the "working men." Evidently that class has no reason to complain in Britain any more than in Canada, of the pressure of the taration. They tax themselves considerably, and if they pay much into the revenue, they have themselves to blame. The total population of Britain is 81,800,000. Of these 21,000,000 constitude what is called the "working class." Imperial and local expenses require £90,-000,000. Of this sum the middle and upper classes pay £60,000,000. Thus the 21,-000,000 have just one third of the whole to meet. Of the local taxes the working class pays five millions out of twenty-five. Then the greater portion of what is paid is from the use of luxuries they would be better without. The working classes pay in Britain £21,400,000 of taxes on spirits, beer and tobacco. Altogether it is calculated that they spend on these injurious articles £82,000,000, that is one hundred and sixty millions of dollars every year. And yet they talk about being oppressed and underpaid though they can worse than throw away that enormous sum annually. If the working men did not drink and smoke they would not pay the tenth of the taxes in Britain. No more would they in Canada. Our working men are well off in general, but if they gave up spirits, beer and tobacco, and did not waste their incomes in something worse than folly, they might all provide for sickness and old age, and be as perfectly independent as it is possible for any class to become. It is about time that well paid mechanics and labourers were told with all frankness and faithfulness that if they are kept poor, it is not through the sins of those above them, or by the customs of society, but from their own wasteful ways and their indulgence in vicious and expensive habits. If the working men of Canada would forswear the tavern and the tobacco pipe, it is scarcely possible to think of any class of men that might be more comfortable and more independent.

Ministers and Churches.

The Rev. George Gilfillan, of Dundee, is busy with a life of the late Dr. William Anderson, of Glasgow. The work is expected to be ready by the end of next month.

Deaths of Prespyterian Ministers,—Some rather prominent Presbyterian clergymen in Scotland have died lately. We have already mentioned the removal of Dr. Guthrie. Principal Barclay, of Glasgow, has also passed away at an advanced age; and Dr. Simeon, of Greenock. Dr. William Pringle, of Achterarder, a most scholarly and accomplished divine, died a few weeks ago. He had been minister of the same charge for the long period of fitty-four years. The Rev. Robert Gardiner, of Wolverhampton, was recently killed by a passing engine at the station of that town as he was crossing the railway line.

The annual Missionary meeting of the C P. Church, Cookstown, was held on the 27th January. The Rev. G. Burnfield, (Pastor), oocupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. McKee and Smith. An Indian choir added much to the interest and pleasure of the meeting. One or two pieces were also sung in the Iudian lauguage. The audience numbered between three and four hundred. The sum of \$48 was collected during the evening for missionary purposes. The interest evinced by the people, as well as the financial result of the meeting, were very gratifying to all concerned.—Com.

On Thursday evening, the 6th inst., a number of the members and adherents of the Canada Presbyterian Church, in the village of Nobleton and vicinity, proceeded to the residence of their pastor, the Rev. James Adams, and presented him with a purse containing \$42. An address expreseve of the feelings of the donors was read by Mr. Philipe. Mr. Adams, though evidently taken by surprise, managed to acknowledge his sense of the kind treatment he had experienced from the congregation since his settlement in King. After the address and presentation, ten was served up by the ladies, in excellent style, and a very pleasant evening was spent by all. Such expressions of kindly feelings on the part of the people must be encouraging to their m'nister.--Cox.

To admit the rightcourness of man, be it ever so little, into the title deed of heaven, is to s lmit a flaw into the security.

When the time shall come that your eyestrings shall break, and your face wax pale,
your breath grow cold, and this house of
clay shall totter, and your one foot shall be
over the houndary in eternity, it will be
your comfort and joy that you gave your
name to Christ. The greatest part of the
world think heaven at the next door, and
that Christianity is an easy tack; but they
will be beguled. Reventions.

RNOX COLLEGE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The seventeenth public meeting of this Society was held last evening in the basement of Knox Church. There was a large audience, demonstrating the favourable consideration given to the exercises of the society. The Rev. Dr. Topp, paster of Knox Church, occupied the chair. After prayer, the proceedings commenced with the reading of an casay by Mr. II. H. Me-Pherson, M.A., on the subject "Design in Nature," which displayed much careful reading and reflection, as well as correct composition. It was received with marks of approval. This was followed by readings:-" Mark Antony's Oration," from Shakespeare, by Mr. E. W. Panton, in good style, showing careful preparation; and the story of "Damon and Pythias, by Mangan, read by Mr. H. McKay. The event of the evening was the debate on the question-Have modern scientific discoveries been injurious on the whole to the cause of reli-gion?" On the affirmative were Messrs. J. Scrimger, M.A., and A. Bell; on the nega-tive, Messrs. D. McKeracher and J. A. Car-michael. It was contended on the affirmative that the whole tone and action of scientific research were hostile to religion; that the scientific formula would upset the belief in miracles and divine revelation; and that the benefits conferred on religion by science are meagre compared with the doubts engendered by the assumptions of scientific men. It was argued on the negative that truth can never injure truth; that science gives us higher views of religious truth; that science has scattered supersti-tious errors, and has stimulated roligious zeal. The arguments on both sides were delivered with force and earnestness. Chairman, in summing up, observed that the question had forced itself on every in-telligent mind, and complimented the debaters on the skill they had displayed in its treatment. He reviewed the arguments briefly and decided in favour of the nega-The meeting was then closed with the benediction.

KNOX COLLEGE STUDENTS MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held in the College, on Wednesday evening, the 12th inst., to consider and determine the fields to be taken up during the summer. Deep interest was manifested in the matter by all the students, and after much deliberation the following fields were selected and missionaries appointed to them: Penetanguishenue, &c., Mr. J. S. Stewart; Wyebridge, Mr. A. McFarlane; Waubanushene and Port Severn, Mr. W. Frizzell; Tay and Medonte, Mr. Stuart Acheson'; Port Carling and Lake Roussean, Mr. P. C. Goldie Parry Sound, Mr. R. P. McKay; Hager man and Ryerson, Mr. J. J. Henry; Sault Ste Marie and Bruce Mines, Mr. W. H. Rennelson, M.A.; Silver Islet, Mr. H. H. McPherson, M.A.; Sombra, Mr. P. Nicol, North Hastings, Mr. J. A. Carmichael and Mr. D. McNoil.

BARRIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH . SOIREE.

The fifth annual source of the Barrie Presbyterian Church was held on the evening of February the 18th. The attendance was very good, the weather being favorable. The duties of the chair were very efficiently discharged by his Honor Judge Gowan, an estimable and highly influential member of the Episcopal church. This is not the first occasion on which the Judge has been pleased to give the like countenance to this congregation. It may be stated here too—ought to be stated, perhap that this gentleman has extended to the Barrie Presbyterian congregation substantial proof of his good-will, and Christian har proof of his good-win, and Christian large-heartedness. Addresses were given by the Revs. 3 ssrs. Milner, P. M.; McDowal, W. M.; Crompton, P. M., an the Pastor, Mr. Fraser. As a whole, an exceedingly pleasant evening was passed. nd \$110 were realized as not profit. anis sum, at the request of the ladies, and by the voice of the congregation, was added to the manse fund. A manse has just been purchased by the congregation, in the heart of the town, and every way suitable, at a cost of \$4.500, four thousand five hundred

WESTON.

dollars.)-Com.

LECTURE ON "HUGH MILLER."

For a long time the C. P. Church, here, was in a very lifeless condition, but now it seems to be waking up to its duty. Last Friday evening, under its auspices, a lecture on "Hugh Miller" was delivered by Mr. W. H. Rennelson, M.A., of Knox College, in aid of the Sunday School. The church was crowded with an appreciative audience. One very noticeable feature in the lecture was its being unlike most lectures on heroes. There are two methods of tures on acroes. There are two methods of treating a hero, which are very much in vogue at present. One is to set him up on a lofty pedestal for "young men and mai-dens, old men a children" to gaze at in admiration, and make genuflections to. The other is to place him with his back to the audience, and use him merely as a post to paste wise saws, and heavy moral reflec-tions on. But last Friday evening we were introduced to a gonuine man, with wulm we got pretty thoroughly acquainted before the evening was over. The very meeting with such a man was ennobling, and Mr. Rennelson has the warmest thanks of the whole community for the very interesting interview he gave ne with Hugh Miller.

Ecclesinstical.

PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO. This Presbytery met at Prince Albert on 4th March, and although the state of th roads prevented several members being present, there was a pretty fair meeting, and a large amount of business was tran. sacted. The most important matters only will be of general interest. A letter was read from Rev. Mr. Fraser, clerk of Mani. toba Presbytery, addressed to Dr. Thom. son, and desiring to know the grounds of the Ontario Presbytery's "non-concurrence" in their application to the General Assembly in regard to the reception of the Rev. Neil McDougal. Dr. Thornton informed the court that as a limited time was al. lowed to answer said letter in order that the reply might be in time for a meeting of the Presbytery of Manitoba, he had replied in genera! terms, and on his own individual responsibility, stating also that he did not consider it was his province as clerk to answer personally. The Presby. tery considered that neither in their collective capacity are they called on to state the grounds of "non-concurrence" at present, but will be ready to do so if required before the General Assembly. Mr. Ed. mondson reported on behalf of a committee appointed to draft an overture to the Synod of Toronto, anent the subject of total abstinence, at once in regard to church mem-bers, and the youth in Sabbath Schools. The report was received, and after conference thereon, Dr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Edmondson, moved, that the Presbytery adopt the overture in so far as it applies to the introduction of the total absinenco princirle into Sabbath Schools, but that the Presbytery further resolve to prepare another overture to the General Assembly, praying that body to give a strong and decided recommendation of the adoption of total abstinence principles on the part of church members and congre-gations. The motion passed unanimously, and a committee was appointed to prepare the overtures and report at a future ecderunt. Mr. Scott reported having modera-ted on a call in Peel st. church, Lindsay, The call has been unanimous in favor of Rev. Geo. Burnfield, of the Presbytery of Sincoe. Messrs. Scott and Ray, commis-sioners from the congregation, intimated the remarkable ardor and unanimity of the congregation in the movement, indicated also by the liberality and promptitude with which, in the limited time afforded, they had subscribed for the support of a minister. The call was sustained and ordered to be transmitted without delay to Mr. Burnfield. The reasons of translation also to be forwarded to the congregation of Cookstown as speedily as possible. The Rev. John Smith, Bownanville, was appointed the representative of the Presbytery, and also of the congregation of Lindson to presentative. of the congregation of Lindsay, to prese-cute the call before the Simcoe presbyter, A telegram was forwarded by the clerk to La ric, where the Simcoe prosbytery were understood to be sitting, intimating the fact of said call being sustained; and an answer thereto ere long conveyed the intelligence that the call could be taken up on the 18th along with one to Mr. Burnfield from Searboro. An application was refrom Scarboro. An application was received from Sunderland and Vroomanton, for supply of preaching. The position of the applicants was explained by Mr. Daw-sen. Messrs. Hutkins, from Sunderland, sen. Messrs. Hukins, from Sunderman, and Mr. Glendinning, from Vroomanton. commissioners, were fully heard. They explained the prospects in regard to the future should supply be obtained, and assured the Presbytery that the subscription now presented could be depended on. They dethe Presbytery that the subscription now presented could be depended on. They de-sired to have a student located there in the summer months. The application was granted, and Mr. Scott was directed to secure a student for this field of labor. At the meeting of the Home Mission committee, Rev. J. L. Murray was appointed at a convenient season to visit these places and make further enquiries, and give all needful encouragement to the people. Reports were then given by the several members who had been engaged in holding missionary meetings. The meetings in most instances had been good, and the spirit of liberality was manifestly upon the increase-Mr. Scott reported that these appointed to visit the mission stations and hold meetings Lal fulfilled their appointments with great faithfulness and with encouraging results. The Presbytery next took up the remits from the General Assembly, and first, that in reference to the appointment of a mission secretary. The appointment of one to this office was regarded as imperatively required now, from the circumstances of the church. The regulations proposed in regard to the duties of the office were approved with some slight amend-ments. The remit in reference to the status of retired ministers was also considered, er more properly the 3rd clause in one of the articles on this point; and it was, on motion, agreed, "that caid clause be adopted as it new stands." In regard to the specification of the duties of the mission secretary above referred to, the Presbytery recommend that the 2nd should read thus, That under the direction of the Home and Foreign French Evangelization and Kanl: akee Mission Committees, he shall have the general oversight of the mission operations of the Church." And the following words were in like manner recom-mended to be added to the 8rd—"and member, ex-officio, of all the other mission committees of the church." That the last clause of the 5th—instead of "in support of the Home and Foreign Missions"—read, in support of the missions and other schemes of the church." 6. Insert after the words, "pages of the Record"—"Bar-TISE AMERICAN PRESENTERIAN and other-wise." The Presenters than otherwise." The Presbytory then proceeded to hear the trials for ordination, assigned to Mr. Cockburn, under call to Unbridge and Leaskdale. Mr. C. accordingly read a lecture from Eph. v. 33-37, Christ also ture from Eph. v. 33-37, "Christ loved the shurch," possiler symmon, R. 7; housily on line v. 3-3 and of