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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, NOVEMBER 18, 1885.

AMONGST many similar letters recently received, one by a correspondent in Windsor contains the following "I am much pleased with the paper. The racy articles of KNOXMAN are worth double the amount charged for it."

THE long and agonizing suspense in which the unhappy victim of a deluded ambition has been kept is now over. Louis Riel has paid the last dread penalty of the law. Impartial history will record that the sentence passed upon him by the Canadian Court and confirmed by the highest legal tribunal in England, was just. His life was chequered and has ended in a miserable tragedy.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN would confer a favour by forwarding by postal card the names and addresses of friends not now receiving the paper to whom it will be sent free by mail till the close of 1885. This offer is made in the view of interesting members of the Presbyterian Church who are unacquainted with the character and objects of the paper and to induce them to become subscribers.

A VISIT to the United States, and perhaps Canada, is now part of a celebrated or notorious Englishman's programme. They come from all classes—from Chief Justice Coleridge to Oscar Wilde—from Henry Irving, the celebrated actor, to Fred Archer, the famous jockey. Of course they are all lionized. Canon Farrar, the last visitor, had perhaps as pleasant and profitable a visit as any of his predecessors. It may have been a mere coincidence, but the eulogium on Gen. Grant delivered by the Canon in England just before his departure for America was a most fortunate hit. It made the distinguished visitor welcome, thrice welcome, in every Northern city. Spurgeon or Gladstone or John Bright would make a tremendo sensation on this Continent. John Bright would perhaps get a heartier welcome in the Northern States than any living man. A visit from such men as Farrar and Newman Hall is pleasant and no doubt profitable. But is it not about time that England were beginning to lionize some of our people when they go over there? We rather suspect that prominent Americans and Canadians are not met by anybody at the wharf when they land in Liverpool or Glasgow. If the whole truth were known perhaps our most distinguished men sometimes carry their valises from the station to their hotel. If this lionizing business is to go on there should be reciprocity. Not long ago the London Times called our Dominion Premier Mr. Thomas Macdonald. What would Englishmen think were we to call Gladstone John or James? We must have reciprocity in this lionizing business.

THE most important question now in connection with the Scott Act is Can it be enforced in towns and cities? There is no special difficulty in enforcing the law in the rural districts. The old wayside tavern is not now a very formidable institution. The rail ways dealt it a staggering blow, and the Scott Act can easily close the bar. In the good old days, when farmers drove a long distance to market and the people

travelled by stage-coach, the wayside tavern was an influential concern. At present its usefulness as well as its influence are largely gone. Its revenue has also very nearly gone. The local business is not brisk enough to supply the sinews of war in a contest with prohibition. The real contest, it is now quite apparent, must be in cities and towns. In the centres of population the traffic has enormous influence. It is well organized, and organization means a great deal. The violator of the law has also special facilities for covering up his tracks in a town or city that can never be possessed by the rural dispenser of alcohol. The same difficulty presents itself on the other side of the lines. Neal Dow does not deny that liquor is sold in Portland and Bangor, nor does Dr. Crosby deny that Prohibition prohibits in the rural districts in Maine. So far as Ontario is concerned, we believe the only question about enforcement now is Can the law be enforced in cities and towns? Perhaps time alone can solve this question. It is a good thing, however, to know exactly how we stand in regard to enforcement. With some enforcement in the legal machinery we believe the traffic can soon be stamped out in the rural districts. This much seems reasonably certain. The real problem now is in regard to towns and cities.

THE question of nationality and of religion should never have been raised in connection with Riel and the North-West troubles. It never would have been raised were French Canadians satisfied with the political rights and privileges possessed by other citizens. Who would ever think of defending a rebel on the ground that he was a Scotchman and a Presbyterian? Who would contend that a condemned man should be saved from the gallows because he was an Irishman? Such pleas would be hooted and the loudest voices heard in the hooting would come from Quebec. Whether the insurrection in the North West was justifiable is a proper question for discussion. Whether capital punishment should be visited under any circumstances upon a political offender is also a proper question. Whether Riel was insane or not may be a proper enough question for specialists in insanity but the nationality and religion of the insurgent is a matter with which the law has nothing to do. It is a matter with which justice has nothing to do. Have things come to such a pass in Canada that when a law-breaker is put in the dock the presiding judge must inquire as to the religion and nationality of the offender? "Gentlemen of the jury, the prisoner is a Scotchman and a Presbyterian." How would that sound from the Bench? "Prisoner, stand up and receive your sentence. If you were a Scotchman and a Presbyterian I would send you to the Penitentiary for ten years, but as you are a Catholic and a Frenchman I will send you for six years." How would that do for British justice? Had a Scotchman or Irishman murdered a Frenchman as Riel murdered Scott, he would have been hanged in Fort Garry just fifteen years ago.

WE are not among those who belittle everything in Canada and worship everything in the Old Country. On the contrary, we think Canada can give the Old Country some useful "points" on a good many questions. But we must say we do admire the manly, intelligent way in which these Britishers go about the work of self-government. Everybody takes a hand. College professors, teachers, clergymen, men of all grades, join in the fray. Nothing has struck us more in reading our British exchanges than the way in which the electors, especially the Scotchmen, catechise a candidate at the close of his speech. They bring him up to the concise point on every question. And, be it remembered, this is always done by his own political friends. They stand no hedging and take nothing for granted. The man who is to have the honour of representing them in Parliament must have fixed principles or remain at home until he gets them. The extreme caution of the Scotch character is seen in a most marked way when the candidate is asked, as he often is, if he is ready to promise that he will resign should he change his views! Everything is open, manly, straightforward and above-board. No doubt the caucus does its work there too, especially in England, but not to the same extent as in America. We fail to see the slightest evidence that the Liberals feel under any obligations to defend the sins of a Liberal or the Tories to defend the immoralities of a Tory. It is for the most part a clean, fair, manly dis-

cussion, in which every citizen takes a hand. Of course there are fools and ruffians in England as well as in other countries and they come to the surface at times, but that is unavoidable. Might not the tone of our political life in Canada be improved if those people who stand aside, and look upon politics as too "dirty" to be touched with anything shorter than a ten-foot pole should take more interest in the government of their country?

THE lively political contest at present going on in England suggests many interesting questions to thoughtful, patriotic Canadians. Here is one. How is it that with all, or very nearly all, the reforms, real or so-called, in operation that Englishmen are contending for the political tone of Canada is so much lower than that of England without these reforms? The principal Reform measures that advanced statesmen are fighting for are Disestablishment, Free Education, Local Government, a more general distribution of Real Property, Extension of the Franchise and Local Option laws. We have all these reforms in full operation in almost every part of this Dominion. There is no established church in Canada. The Roman Catholic Church rules Quebec but it is not established in the sense in which the Episcopal Church is established in England and the Kirk in Scotland. We have Free Education in all the Provinces except Quebec and the Catholics there are satisfied with their own system. We have Local Government in every Province. Property is very generally distributed. We have few millionaires and citizens own something in the shape of real estate. We have a Franchise that comes very near being manhood suffrage. Our Local Option laws almost amount to Prohibition. In fact we have Prohibition in the greater part of the Dominion. Now how does it come that with all these reforms in full operation the tone of our political life is so much lower than that of England? We don't stop to show that it is. Everybody knows it is. No one speaks of English politics as being "dirty." May it not be quite possible that we have been expecting far too much from such measures as Disestablishment and Free Education? Taking Free Education as our greatest boon, has it done as much for us as its advocates said it would do? Has it done as much for the United States as its champions predicted? Do we find that men become moral in proportion as they become intelligent? After all, has Disestablishment done as much for Canada as many expected? One fact we must admit. England without these reforms has an infinitely higher and purer public life than Canada has with them. How explain this fact? Those who have fought the hardest for these reforms in Canada—the *Globe* for example—are those who most bewail the low tone of our political life. Is there not an acknowledgment here that the reforms have at least partially failed? Might it not be better to put less confidence in mere legislators and more in the Gospel?

BOARD OF FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

THE half yearly meeting of the Board of French Evangelization was held in Montreal on Wednesday, the 4th inst., and was largely attended by the members. The Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., presided. The principal meeting of the Board takes place in March, when every one of the fields is considered, statistics received and grants made according to their needs. At the meeting last week a large amount of routine business was transacted and encouraging reports made regarding most of the fields. Messrs. Warden (Conventer), McCaul, Jordan, Heintz, Doudiet, Cruikshank and Morton were appointed a committee to take the supervision of the Fointe aux Trembles Mission Schools for the year. It was reported that nearly 300 applications for admission to these schools had been received; that of those whose applications were granted, a large number had delayed coming owing to the epidemic prevailing in the city and suburbs; but that eighty pupils were in actual attendance with the prospect of a considerable addition during the present month. Of those in attendance thirty-seven are new pupils, twenty-five have attended one session already, fifteen have attended two sessions and four, three sessions. About twelve of the pupils are being trained with a view to their becoming teachers or missionaries.

The question of the relationship of the Board to the French-Canadian mission work in the New England States was discussed at length. Gratification was expressed at the encouraging progress of the work there,