

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 the Dominion of Ontario.

Presbyterian Year Book OUT FOR 1877.

THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

The London Advertiser says:—"We have to acknowledge receipt of THE PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA AND NEW-FOUNDLAND, published by Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, 102 Bay Street, Toronto, and edited by Rev. James Cameron, Chatsworth.

Mailed, free of postage, to any address, on receipt of the price, 25 cents.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Toronto, Ont.

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, (his own subscription not being in arrears) will receive a copy of the "Presbyterian Year Book" for 1877.

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1877.

Our readers will find on the seventh page of this paper a true story—"A rough way home"—which is taken from the N.Y. Christian Weekly.

At the first election of Chancellor of Queen's University, Kingston, under the late act, the Rev. John Cook, D.D., of Quebec, was unanimously chosen.

The Boston Congregationalist says, sentimentally: "Ministers who think it useless for them to make much effort to preach, must not be surprised if their people conclude that it is useless to make much effort to come and hear."

On returning to England, Mr. George Williams gave a report of his visit to the International Convention of the Y.M.C.A. held in this city, which showed so much appreciation of his welcome here among Christian friends, and of the work of the Y.M.C.A. on this continent, that a speaker who followed him, thought, it was fortunate for the London Association that he had taken a return ticket in sailing from Liverpool!

English Presbyterians are subscribing liberally to the Memorial Fund commemorating the recent union. One layman has subscribed \$25,000 for five years; another \$50,000, to endow a professorship in the London Presbyterian College; another \$12,500; two others \$10,000 each; five others \$5,000 each; and four 12,000 each; already nearly \$300,000 have been subscribed. Certainly our English brethren devise liberal things.

COMMENTING on the sentence of the defaulting accountant of the Bank of Montreal, in this city, who was recently sent down for five years at hard labour, the London Advertiser remarks:—"While by no means disposed to rejoice at the punishment of the young man Barber, we are not sorry that a blow has been dealt at that mistaken sentiment which has been inclined to look leniently at offences such as that of which he was guilty. The man who betrays a trust and takes a large sum is really more to blame than the common thief who steals without premeditation, and probably to meet some pressing want. The former trades upon his character and social connections. The influence of friends should never be great enough to defeat justice, nor should friends be so ready to invent excuses, considering that the offence is generally committed against people of a high social circle.

CLERICAL PRIVILEGES.

Last week we directed attention at some length to the subject of exemption of taxes on church property, which is now before the Provincial Legislature, and is being largely discussed by the press of the country. This week we wish to speak of the collateral subject of Clerical Privileges.

In one respect, these and other similar privileges are an acknowledgment of the fact that clergymen are in the average greatly underpaid. They are so far valuable as evincing the appreciation of the extraordinary labors, and the excellent influence of the ministers of religion. It needs no argument to show that as a class they are not remunerated according to the standards of other professions, and also according to the value of their labors. When we are told that the head carver of the Parker House, Boston, receives more salary than the President of Harvard College, that in one entire State pastors are not paid more than six hundred dollars each, and that the average stipend given to ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is considerably under one thousand dollars, there is no room to doubt the statement that the clerical profession is indeed a poor one, considered from a worldly point of view. Why it should be so is in truth a puzzling problem. There is certainly no class of men who deserve better of the community. As a rule a pastor does an extraordinary work. He has to prepare discourses that will prove so thoughtful and eloquent as to please the tastes of an educated community. He has to keep abreast of the age in literature, in science, and in everything pertaining to travel and discovery. He is expected to visit the sick of his congregation with the same untiring industry as the well paid physician. He adds to this a general visitation of his members and adherents, which seriously invades the territory of his time, which is needful for careful preparation for the pulpit, and for the culture of his mind. No social or religious movement in the parish, no philanthropic work, no convention gotten up in the interests of any great question, can successfully be carried on without the presence and co-operation of the minister. At the same time, he is expected to contribute largely to every cause of benevolence, and there is not a poor man in the city or parish but what comes to him for relief, and who we may safely say thus gets all he wants. Dr. Taylor, of New York, says he could spend the whole average income of clergymen on literature alone, and he would be doing nothing extravagant in order to keep abreast of the age and be able for his duties; while Dr. Adams, of the Union Theological Seminary, felt free enough to inform his congregation, when taking leave of them, that he considered he had, by reason of underpay, and his contributions to religious and benevolent objects, given more to the Church during his ministry than any one of his wealthy members. There is no other profession in which a person of fair average ability cannot easily accumulate a moderate fortune. The moment a man enters the church, no matter what may be his talents and learning, he may bid farewell to the idea of doing more than maintaining and educating his family; and even then, he will have to make many sacrifices, and to exercise on all hands the spirit of self-denial.

This matter of privileges greatly tends, we think, to stereotype this poverty-stricken condition of clergymen. Whenever steps are taken to increase the salary of the minister, there are those who are ready to exclaim, "our minister has sufficient already." This person asserts that he has given so much to the private donation. Another says he sent a present to the manse, which by the way cost him nothing. Another remarks the pastor can travel for half fare, and he has to pay the whole fare. And some one else refers in terms of warm appreciation to the discounts which he and other tradesmen make when the minister is settling their accounts. So they conclude that their pastor is paid quite enough. Now the question to be considered is this, "What do all these half-fares, discounts, and donations amount to? Will they make up for the deficiencies of an inadequate salary? Are they not likely to prove privileges which seem to amount to a great deal, but in actuality are little more than nothing? Supposing that it be universally conceded that a clergyman should have twelve hundred dollars per annum instead of the six hundred he is actually receiving, will the value of all these perquisites amount to six hundred dollars, and if they do, is this the way in which the pastor, who is interested, would expend the money for his own and his family's necessities. Were all these privileges allowed in addition to what may be considered a fair average salary to a person in a minister's position,

then good and well, though we think we speak the mind of our brethren in the pulpit when we say that such privileges are objectionable on other grounds. But when we know as a matter of fact that all these are miserable subterfuges—we mean in the average case—for the want of sufficient payments, we are not going too far in condemning them with unsparring words. In one sentence, where privileges are intended to do duty for salary, they are not only worthless, but they are an insult to those who receive them.

We take the ground unhesitatingly that ministers of churches should be paid adequate salaries. They should be remunerated somewhat according to the standard of salary in the district. What does the judge receive, what is the physician's income; what is paid the head clerk of an establishment,—questions like these will determine what is adequate salary for a person in the position of a minister. Let the pastor be paid somewhat according to this standard, and then he will be able to pay his way like a man. He will be relieved from depressing loads of anxiety and care. He will be free to undertake his important work without the corroding influence of money spoiling everything he does. He will be able to obey the Saviour's command, and take no thought of the morrow, being thus enabled to provide for old age, or for the widow and fatherless he will leave behind, if called to the higher service. He will no longer travel for half fare, like a school boy not in his teens. He will not be tempted to purchase things he does not require, because they are sold to him at a reduced rate. He will no more speculate on the Christmas donation as a matter of uncertain value. When clergymen are paid proper salaries they will hold up their heads. Their services will be more valuable. They will be raised up as a class. And then we shall no longer have to hear of the profession languishing for want of young men. Our Divinity halls will be more largely attended. There will be a better prospect for congregations being served by able and eloquent preachers. The cry that the services are not edifying will become fainter and fainter. Indeed we make no scruple in saying, that were the clergy paid as other professional men are paid, their profession would be the very first in every respect—the first certainly in point of the learning and ability of its members, as we may say it is the first now in character and influence.

NEWS FROM FORMOSA.

The establishment of the Canadian Mission in North Formosa, China, is fresh in the memories of our readers. It is not yet five years since Mr. McKay commenced his arduous labors in that island. Still better do we all remember his urgent calls for help and the departure of Mr. Fraser to his assistance. In most cases, missionaries to heathen lands, as well as those who have sent them, have to lay their account for many years of clearing and ploughing and sowing and harrowing, before they can reasonably expect any reaping. In fact the devoted missionary often spends his whole life-time on his chosen field of labor without seeing any satisfactory results. He does not complain—witness the case of William O. Burns on the Chinese mainland—he knows that it is his part to work and leave results with God. Sometimes, however, the case is different; the reaper overtakes the sower, and they rejoice together. It is so in the present case. We have had no direct communication lately, either from Mr. McKay or from Mr. Fraser; but news of their success comes to us in a roundabout way; and it seems all the more valuable on that account. It seems as if these earnest Christian workers were too busy to find time to sound their own trumpet, and it was left for the rejoicer and the wayfaring man to sound it for them. The island has been visited some time ago by a British war vessel, H. M. S. Lapwing; and one of her officers (Hon. Henry Shore, son of Lord Teignmouth) writes home to his friends in England giving a most interesting account of the great Christianising work now being accomplished there. Lieutenant Shore writes:

"There are now nine chapels in the neighborhood of Kee-lung and Tam-sui, seven native preachers or helpers and nine students under training. Mr. McKay's principle has been to build the chapels when practicable within easy reach of the converts, instead of having wide districts with a large central church; for the women, owing to the abominable practice of bandaging their feet, are quite unable to walk long distances. Once a year the whole of the converts are collected together in one place, and they thus gain a sense of their own numbers, and feel a sympathy with each other. A meeting of this nature increases their confidence, and inspires outsiders with respect for them. Each chapel is visited periodically by Mr. McKay himself, and what might be called revival services are held every night during the period of his stay, which varies from two or three days to a longer time. This strengthens the wavering and increases the zeal of the members. Mr. McKay tells me that on these occasions he has congregations of sixty, eighty, and even a hundred people, night after night, all eager and attentive listeners."

We merely give a sample of Lieutenant Shore's long communication. He goes on in the same way to tell of Mr. McKay's wonderful success; of the valuable assistance rendered to him by Dr. Fraser; of the integrity, honesty, talent and usefulness of the native preachers or assistants; and of the various hardships which the missionaries have to undergo. Regarding all these things we have just two remarks to make. We ought to be thankful that God has so richly blessed the missionary efforts of our Church, and that He is causing the light of the gospel to shine into places which have heretofore been the habitation of cruelty. We ought also to be thankful that there are now officers in Her Majesty's navy who are upon God's side, and who can bear truthful testimony to the great good accomplished by our missionaries in heathen lands.

From Ottawa we learn that the "Exemption Committee" appointed by the corporation of that city, had a meeting on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at which, after considerable discussion, a resolution was passed recommending that Government property be subjected to taxation. The Government property in Ottawa is valued at not less than \$8,000,000, and by carrying out the recommendation of the committee, the burdens of the citizens will be lessened to an appreciable degree. The committee afterwards proceeded to consider the same question of exemption or taxation as it regards Church property. A motion was made to the effect that the present exemptions on Church property be continued; but time failed for completing the discussion, and the meeting was adjourned till Friday, the 19th inst., when the discussion of the motion made at the previous meeting was resumed, and an amendment made that would have the effect of subjecting all Church property to taxation equally with Government and private property. It would seem as if the motion and amendment were in too direct opposition, and their several supporters did not seem likely to come to terms, so that as a sort of compromise, an amendment to the amendment was made, which runs thus:—"That clause No. 8 of the Exemption Act be amended so as to read 'that every place of worship and the lots or ground upon which it is erected, and cemeteries and burying grounds, be exempted from taxation.'" This last amendment was carried by a majority of six; twelve voting for and six against. The meeting then adjourned.

Ministers and Churches.

[We urgently solicit from Presbytery 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.]

The Rev. Alex. Urquhart has received an unanimous call from Chalmers' Church, Danwich. Salary \$700 a year and manse.

Rev. W. T. Wilkins, M.A., having resigned the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, has left that town.

We are pleased to learn that the Fort Massey congregation have resolved to increase the salary of their pastor, Dr. Burns, from \$2,600 to \$3,000.

The death of the Rev. Archibald Henderson, M.A., of St. Andrew's, Q., is announced. He was the oldest Presbyterian minister in the Dominion.

A new Presbyterian Church is to be erected at Theford; and as soon as the weather will permit in the spring, building operations will be commenced. Brick for that purpose is now being hauled.

An organ Recital of Sacred music, is announced to take place in Zion Church, Brantford, on Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, when the new organ will be opened. We have no doubt the lovers of sacred music in Brantford and vicinity will attend in large numbers.

Rev. D. Sutherland, Campbellford, was recently presented with a purse containing \$54. The presentation was made at the close of the usual weekly prayer meeting in the Church, and was accompanied by a very kind address, to which Mr. Sutherland replied in suitable terms.

The children of the Sabbath school in connection with the Presbyterian Church, Windsor, enjoyed their usual annual entertainment on Friday evening last. Miss Bartlet, church organist, was presented with a valuable necklace, and upwards of two hundred presents—ornamental and useful—were distributed among the children.

At the usual meeting of the East Presbyterian Church in this city on New Year's day morning, the Rev. J. M. Cameron was presented with \$100 as an expression of the congregation's unabated attachment to him as its pastor, and of its increasing appreciation of his manifold labours in the district. Mr. McCracken, one of the elders, made the presentation in a very neat and appropriate speech.

On Sabbath, the 14th inst., anniversary services commemorative of the dedication of the Church were held at Georgetown. Rev. J. Campbell and Rev. A. R. Kennedy preached to large audiences. On the fol-

lowing Monday evening a tea meeting was held which filled the Church, although the weather was stormy. Rev. Joseph Alexander presided, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Meikle of Oakville, and Rev. Robert Laidlaw of Detroit.

At the annual congregational missionary meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, recently held, there was a large and attentive audience. The chair was occupied by Rev. T. G. Smith, and addresses were delivered by Revs. M. W. McLean of Belleville, Prof. McChrass, D. J. Macdonnell of Toronto, and David Wishart of Madoc. The choir of the Church sang a choice selection of hymns which were admirably rendered.

We are happy to state that the vacancy in the Barrie congregation is likely to be short. The Rev. John Lelper having accepted a unanimous call, will be inducted (D.V.) to the charge on Thursday, 1st February. The Presbytery will meet at two p.m. Mr. J. Gray will preside at the inductio services. Sermons will be preached by Mr. Smith Hutchison and the newly inducted minister, and the congregation will be addressed successively by Messrs. W. McConnell and R. Moodie.

The annual meeting of the congregation of Knox Church, Woodstock, was held on the evening of Wednesday, 8th inst. The financial report exhibited a highly satisfactory state of affairs. The following officers were elected for the current year: Treasurer, Jas. McDonald; Secretary, Asa Hall; Board of Trustees, John Forrest, William Gardiner, Angus Rose, William Campbell, John M. Grant, William Potts, Jas. Hay, jr., R. Chayon, sr., W. McAllan, Jas. Bain, Andrew Pattullo and Peter Johnson. The meeting was harmonious and enjoyable throughout.

On Sunday of last week, Rev. Mr. Hislop entered upon the seventh year of his pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Avanton, and in the course of the service gave some interesting statistical information of the progress of the congregation during the past six years. The addition to the membership of the church numbered 149, of whom 54 were by certificate, and the others young persons from 17 to 26 years of age; the number of baptisms was 189, of whom two were adults and the others infants. During this time, also, 60 marriages were solemnized. Such progress is encouraging, and indicates the energy and zeal of the highly respected pastor.

The annual meeting of St. Joseph street Church, Montreal, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. John Scrimger, M.A., was held on the 17th inst. The statement of the Session showed a membership of 232 on the roll,—a net increase of fourteen over the previous year. The financial report conveyed the pleasing intelligence that the Church property was now entirely free from debt, and that the balance for ordinary expenditure was on the right side. The missionary collections including those from the Sabbath school amounted to \$402. The congregation unanimously voted an addition of \$800 to the salary of the pastor. Mr. Scrimger's many friends in the West will be pleased to learn of his successful labours in Montreal.

The fourth anniversary of the Cookstown Presbyterian Church was held on the 1st January. Tea was served at 1 o'clock, after which the pastor, the Rev. Stuart Acheson, took the chair, and interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. J. Thom, Cookstown, Mr. Galloway, student of Knox College, and Mr. Fraser, Bond Head. The choir of the church rendered choice selections of music. A social was held in the evening, the whole proving a complete success. At the annual meeting held on the 14th inst., after paying the current expenditure and the stipend half yearly in advance, there was found to be in the hands of the treasurer \$116, one hundred of which was applied towards the liquidation of the debt in connection with the building fund.—Cox.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Guelph, was held on the afternoon of the 13th inst., and was very largely attended. The managers presented their annual report, which was unanimously received and adopted. The Treasurer's report was also presented, which showed the financial position of the church to be very satisfactory, their being a balance on hand, after paying all current expenses for the year just closed, of \$241.08. The following gentlemen were elected as the Board of Management for 1877:—Messrs. William Whitelaw, John Spalding, Thomas Mauderson, Kenneth McLean, James McNair, Thomas Goldie, John O. Cleghorn, M. O. MacGregor, James D. Williamson, James G. Bailey, James Millar, James Speirs. Mr. Speirs was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer for the year.

On Thursday evening, January 11th, the congregation of Knox Church, Ottawa, held their annual meeting, Rev. Mr. Farries presiding. The report of the Session shows that thirty-four new members had been added during the year. The total revenue for the year as shown by the Treasurer's report was \$7,085.45, and the