

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIV.—No. 27.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 6, 1898

\$1.50 per Annum

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No 21, 23, 25 Aburdeou Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2461, Toronto, Ont.

Publishers and Proprietors:

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Toronto, Jan. 6, 1898

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The week of Prayer is being generally observed in Canada this week. In Toronto the meetings are being held in the Week of Prayer lecture room of the Y.M.C.A. at 4 p.m. daily; the programme being as follows, Monday, “Confession and Thanksgiving”, Tuesday, “The Church Universal”, Wednesday, “Nations and their Rulers”, Thursday, “Families and Schools”, Friday, “Foreign Missions.” The evening meetings were held at 8 o'clock on Tuesday, in the College Street Presbyterian Church, Wellesley Street Baptist Church, and St. John's Presbyterian Church, Bolton avenue.

The sad news that Sir Henry Havelock Allen was cut down at Fort Musjid, on the Indian Frontier, while separated from his escort, on a march to Jamrud has filled Str Henry Havelock-Allen British subjects everywhere with great sorrow. Sir Henry was a son of the celebrated General Sir Henry Havelock, the hero of Cawnpore and Lucknow, a Christian soldier, whose career has been used to point a moral to young and old. The late Sir Henry rendered important service in Canada during the Fenian Raid. He was accounted one of the bravest soldiers in the British Army and worthy of his father's honoured name.

Two points of Mr. Ross' comprehensive platform laid down at the Mount Bydges Convention are worthy of being Two Good Points emphasized at the present time. One deals with the liquor laws, the other with Canada's relations with Great Britain. The first plank he explains thus. To enforce without fear, favour or affection the laws respecting the liquor traffic, and to impose from time to time, as may be practicable such restrictions on the sale of intoxicating liquors as will promote public morality and protect society from drunkenness and all kindred vices.

The second plank is elaborated in these terms: To foster and strengthen our relations with the Empire to which we belong, and to adopt on all questions such a resolute, honorable and progressive policy as will guarantee to the Province of Ontario at all times that influence in shaping the future of the Dominion of Canada to which it is entitled by virtue of its area, wealth and population. It goes without saying that the great majority of the people of Ontario will heartily endorse both propositions, but it is well that such principles should be kept constantly before the people, for only the force of public opinion can move Governments and Legislatures.

It would appear that the peace which prevailed in W. C. T. U. circles at the Toronto Convention over the Lady White Ribboners Somerset election, has not reigned long. Under the magic of Miss Willard's influence the Convention was harmonious and no open rupture took place, but from their homes, some of the prominent officers have, since, been complaining and resignations and protests have been tendered. It is now reported that on account of Lady Somerset's attitude on the C. D. Acts, her election to a vice-presidency is so objectionable to some of the leaders that trouble is imminent. Much can be said for the objectors that regard Lady Somerset's views as subversive of one of the principles of White Ribbonism. They do not object to freedom of opinion, nor do they minimize Lady Somerset's great services, but they, with no small show of consistency, contend that holding such views as she does, Lady Somerset ought to have declined office in an Association such as the W.C.T.U. Yet the cause all have at heart will be better served by a peaceful ending of the controversy and it is to be hoped Miss Willard's great influence will bring about an acceptable settlement.

A contemporary publishes the following suggestive paragraph. “I am seeking for light as to my duty,” writes a brother, “and for a long time have been praying for God to show me the way.” We know him to be a devoted minister, seeking only to know the will of his Lord. And yet is it not possible that we sometimes look quite a distance ahead and ask for light as to that time? Is it not possible to become morbid in praying for guidance? Is it not better, ordinarily, to pray for guidance and strength for immediate duty, and wait in the confidence that the light we need will be given as our feet tread the path of duty? “Our Father, who art in heaven, this day lead me.” The light will be given with the daily bread. Patience, O my soul; wait on the Lord, and He will strengthen thine heart.

The departure of missionaries to a foreign land is always an interesting event. They go forth in obedience to the divine command, knowing, in a certain sense, not whither, but in faith on Him whose message of peace they are to publish to the ends of the earth. Last week a devoted band was bidden God speed at Toronto by Rev. Alex. Gilray and Rev. Elmore Harris, on their way to China, sent there by the China Inland Mission. The names of the missionaries are.—Mr. and Mrs.