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London, Friday, Oct. 17.

MR. MEREDITH'S DEPARTURE.

Mr. W. R. Meredith, M.P., has finally
removed his household to Toronto, where
his business interests now lie.

The ADVERTISER wishes the talented
lawyer every professional success. He is
possessed of undoubted ability, and in his
new home he will have great scope for it.
He has been handicapped through having
to devote so much of his time and attention
to the leadership of his party in the Ontario
Legislature. That he has met with so small
success as to feel inclined to retire from the
leadership has not been altogether his
blame. He had to fight against a strong
Government, headed by one of the ablest
men in public life in America, and
John Macdonald at a time when the
consensus of this Province had resolved, with
the aid of the Ottawa authorities and the
Legislature Opposition, to get control, by
hook or crook, of a large portion of North-
western Ontario. Under these circum-
stances defeat was to be looked for, still it
must be disheartening to Mr. Meredith.

With the departure of Mr. Meredith and
his family from London a link with the
past is snapped. We trust the change will
be wholly advantageous to them, and that
in Toronto prosperity and happiness may
be theirs.

A WORTHY CITIZEN HONORED.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a
report of the congratulations showered on
our esteemed fellow-citizen, Dr. C. T.
Campbell, on his attainment of the post of Deputy
Grand Sir of a world-wide and influential
organization. Dr. Campbell's election to
what may be termed a high international
position is a deserved compliment to the
recipient and a compliment and advantage
to London.

IN THE PEOPLE'S HANDS.

A good deal has been said in the past,
and much more will be said in the near
future, on the subject of the law regarding
the sale of intoxicating liquors.

It will do no harm, and may be productive
of good at this stage, to consider how much
power the people have in their own hands,
and can exercise as they see fit.

Under the Ontario law, the "taxpayers
now have it in their power:

1. To limit the number of taverns and
shops in the city.

2. To collect from taverns and shops
revenue for civic purposes to a substantial
amount.

3. To prevent the licensing of new
premises in any municipal subdivision.

Or 4. To entirely prohibit the sale of
liquor within the limits of the municipality.

These are very extensive powers, but
they are all conferred on the taxpayer in the
Ontario License Law, or the amendments
to that measure passed at the last meeting
of the Legislature.

The reduction of the number of taverns
and shops in the city can be effected by
securing the election of aldermen favorable
thereto. The bylaw governing the action
must be passed before March 1 in each year.

The Council is also empowered to collect
\$200 for civic revenue from the hotels,
saloons and shops. London Council col-
lects \$30 for shops, \$10 for hotels and \$50
for saloons.

Until last year a new license could be
granted unless a majority of the voters in
the sub-division petitioned against it. By
the new law no new license and no trans-
fer of a license to new premises can be
granted unless the majority of the voters
on the roll for the Legislature petition in
favor of it.

Another most important provision in the
amendments to the law, passed at the last
session of the Legislature is the following:

The council of every township, city, town
and incorporated village may pass bylaws for
prohibiting the sale by retail of spirituous
fermented or other manufactured liquors, in
any tavern, inn, or other house of public en-
tertainment, and for prohibiting altogether the
sale thereof in such places other than houses
of public entertainment. Provided that the
bylaw, before the final passing thereof, has
been duly approved of by the electors of the
municipality in the manner provided by the
sections in that behalf of the Municipal Act.

The moral of the whole matter is that the
management of the liquor traffic is now in
the hands of the people themselves. No
good can be done by blaming the law-
makers—whether Dominion or Provincial. The
people can exercise their power at the
polls or in their capacity as private citizens
as they deem best for the public welfare.

We repeat: The disposition of the liquor
traffic in this city rests entirely with you-
selves as citizens and electors of London.

It is now believed that President Har-
rison will not call an extra session of Con-
gress. There are many who believe that the
congruities of the new tariff law, but who
knows how many more might be brought
out, or how involved the party in power
might become if Congress were to assemble
before the November elections?

AN EXPLANATION NEEDING EXPLA-
NATION.

R. Moffat Neill, or R. Neale—It does not
yet appear which is his real name—has
made an explanation to the members of the
First Congregational Church in this city,
but his "explanation" requires to be ex-
plained.

It seems to be at best but an involved
piece of special pleading, and contains
manifest inconsistencies.

A specimen brick is the assertion that he
had called the congregation together to
listen to his statement because "the news-
papers" of the city had refused to publish it.
Our city contemporary can speak for
itself. The ADVERTISER now asserts—and
it defies R. Neale, or R. Moffat Neill, to
truthfully say anything to the contrary—
that it has ever refused to publish his side
of the question, for the very reason that
neither he nor anyone representing him
has tendered any explanation for publica-
tion. The newspapers with which Mr.
Neill has been connected may regard it as
a proper thing to be one-sided, but that is
not the kind of a paper that the ADVERTISER
is. It is published in the interests of the
public, and it believes in giving the news.
That it is always willing to do so is evi-
denced to-day by its presentation of this
man's story on the first available opportu-
nity presented to it.

R. Neale, or R. Moffat Neill, first denied
that he had changed his name; at the meet-
ing last night he seemed to take back
and acknowledge the statement made by the
issuers of marriage licenses. Our readers
can judge for themselves of the merits of
the "explanation."

Another odd hint dropped by Mr. Neill
left the ADVERTISER representative under
the impression that for some reason or other
he had married the lady who became his
wife in this city last year some time before
and in the city of Pittsburgh. Then why
did he swear before the issuers of marriage
licenses that he was a widower and she a
widow? This is a point which the "ex-
planation" does not explain.

In the innocence of our heart, we had
thought that a church meeting was a place
where pastor and people assemble for con-
ference as to what is best for the interests
of the congregation. For reasons best known
to himself, this professed preacher does not
appear to think so. No sooner had he
finished his rambling statement than he
pronounced the benediction. Not a moment's
opportunity was given to anyone present
to say a word in regard to the grave discre-
pancies that were apparent in the statement
made by him. Even when Mr. Hicks,
secretary of the church, rose to say a word
on the subject he was refused a hearing.

The public may be able to reach a conclu-
sion as to the reasons for treating a member
and officer of the church in this manner.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The oldest preacher in the Episcopal
Church of England is Rev. Joseph Hudson,
vicar of Chillingham. He was ordained 73
years ago, and will be 100 years old next
January.

Archdeacon Farrar, the famous
preacher and author, has been appointed
Chaplain of the House of Commons, in
succession to Hon. and Rev. F. E. C. Byng,
M.A. The duties are merely nominal, and
the salary is \$2,000 a year. As one of the
canons residentiary of Westminster Abbey,
Archdeacon Farrar receives \$5,000 a year.

At the British Church Congress, re-
cently, the Bishop of Beverley, who pre-
sided when the gathering had under con-
sideration the question of gambling, said it
was worth while to teach children to play
whist for whist's sake. He was doing it
himself just now, without any points or
stakes. Any game, he said, that was worth
playing at all was worth playing without a
stake. The final resolution of the congress
on the subject was in accord with the
Bishop's declaration, that all games are all
right, but playing for stakes all wrong.

The purchase of the Alaska has proved
a very profitable speculation for the United
States. According to the annual report of
the Governor of that country the exports
from that territory during the past year
consisted of whalebone to the value of
\$1,159,005; whale oil, \$192,500; codfish,
\$355,000; salmon, \$3,335,000; gold, es-
timated at \$5,000,000; fur seal, \$2,000,000,
and other articles making up a total of
\$9,840,730. This is over \$2,000,000 more
than the United States paid for Alaska
in 1867.

Governor Campbell, of Ohio, affirms
that Cincinnati has the lowest grade of
political morals of any city in the country.
The Governor should know. He has just
caused the assembly of the Legislature to
dismiss a board which he himself appointed,
and which he declares is now steeped in
corruption. When municipal officers take
to running civic affairs with the object
of advancing political aims, morality soon be-
comes rampant. What the cities of the
United States and Canada need are the
services of the best men in the community,
irrespective of political proclivities—men
who value their good name in the com-
munity too much to be above prostituting
their position as mayor or alderman to aid
in obtaining support for any political
wire-puller.

Henry M. Stanley is still lionized
wherever he goes in his European tour,
and a cable correspondent informs us that
as the time draws near for his departure on
his Canadian and United States lecturing
tour the interest in him seems to redouble.
The progress of the newly-married couple
during their travels on the continent was
almost like that of a sovereign through his
dominions and was marked by all the honors
which the various municipalities and the
learned societies could shower on the
great explorer. As a consequence he
brings home a sheaf of addresses from
them. In Brussels last week he was the
hero of the hour, and the Masters of
State and other nobilities of the city vied
with each other in calling on him and do-
ing him honor at his hotel as soon as it

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Life of Robert Browning, by William
Sharp (London, 1890). So many biographi-
cal details, portraits, letters, impromptu
verses, fragments of conversations, little
anecdotes valuable as illustrating some new
feature of this incomparable poet's mind,
have been poured out on all sides since his
death that it is difficult to choose from
among them. Everything relating to such
a man is worthy of record and preservation,
and in Mr. Browning's case there is nothing
to be abridged or passed over. Even in the
broad light of his immense fame his life is
without a blemish. It is great and good as
the poems it inspired.

In his preface Mr. Sharp tells us that
his volume does not pretend to be more
than a *thémoré pour servir*. It was hastily
produced within four months of the poet's
death. Still it is an accurate and clear ac-
count of the chief incidents in the poet's
life.

Robert Browning was born on May 7,
1812, at Camberwell. His grandfather on
the father's side was a Crofton, and on the
mother's side a Crofton, and his maternal grand-
father was a German from Hamburg, an ac-
complished musician and artist. His father,
a clerk in the Bank of England, who lived
44 and never knew a day's illness, was a
scholar and a writer of verse himself. From
him Browning inherited his grand physique
and love of books, from his mother his
artistic and musical tastes. At 8 years old
he began to translate Homer; by the time
he was 12 he had written poems enough to
fill a volume. After leaving school in 1826
he studied with a tutor at home, and then
for a very short time at the London Uni-
versity. His father's full belief in his son's
genius, secured for him all the ease and comfort
that a literary man needs to do good work.
The way was cleared and smoothed before that
spendid brain, crowded even in youth with
schemes. The key-note of his life and of
his work was sounded at 20, when he ex-
claimed: "I am made up of an interest
in what I write, and a love of the thing itself,
and feel all." His first work to see the
light was the fragmentary poem "Pauline,"
anonymously published in January, 1833.
Though the influence of Shelley is seen on
every page, Browning's work is his own.
His next marked work was "Paracelsus,"
a shapely drama containing passages of
wonderful beauty and melody such as
these:

I go to prove my soul.
I see my way as birds track their way.
I do not know what I am doing, first
I ask not; but unless God sends his hail
or blinding fire, I seek or shunning snow,
I come to you, my friend, and I shall argue
He guides me and the bird. In his good time.

Mr. Browning's next drama, "Straford,"
was a success on the stage, but succeeding
tragedies found no managers to take them.
"Sordello" was written and published in 1840.
Its harsh and involved passages are chiefly
due to the author's dread of being diffuse. Mr.
Browning himself has confessed that it is
"the entirely unintelligible Sordello."
Under the title of "Bells and Pome-
granates" his complete poems were brought
out in cheap pamphlet form. ("Pippa
Passes," which has been called a
lyrical masque with dramatic episodes,
and which is one of the most beauti-
ful and simplest of poems, was sold
for 6d. a copy.) Next to it in the series
came the tragedy "King Victor and King
Charles"; then the "Dramatic Lyrics," con-
taining immortal poems; next several more
plays, including "Rings and the Scotchman,"
and "Colombe's Birthday." Afterwards
a volume of "Dramatic Romances," including
"Italy in England," "The Lost Leader,"
"The Flight of the Duchess," and "Saul."
In 1848 "Luria," "Luria's Song,"
"The Tragedy" were published. That same
year Robert Browning was married to
Elizabeth Barrett; their brief and happy
marriage, though it lasted but five years,
was marked by his love letters, his books
and paintings, its terrace and balcony
full of flowers, and the large drawing-room
where "she who was the glory of it all" sat
in her low arm chair, has been described by
him in "Luria." In 1849, in 1849, the
son Robert Wiedemann Barrett Brown-
ing was born. In 1850 "Christmas Eve
and Easter Day" was written. Five years
afterwards, in 1855, "The Ring and the
Book" was published. It was the crowning
work of his career, as though it were
"Women" was placed in his wife's hand
with the touching dedication, "One word
more."

There they are, my fifty men and women,
Some of them, love, the book and me together.
Where the heart lies let the brain lie also.

In 1861 Mrs. Browning died, whispering
words of love and beauty to him until
the last. In memory of their parting he
wrote his wonderful little poem, "Prospice."

In November, 1863, "The Ring and the
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