

# The Canada Presbyterian

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The Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co.,  
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH, 1896.

IT may be all right, but to the average lay mind there seems something inconsistent in the argument of the Judge or Crown Counsel who tells the jury in a trial for murder that they are not responsible for the results that follow a verdict of guilty, and in the same breath tell them that the prisoner is responsible for the results that flow from his actions. Are not all men responsible for the results of their actions?

THE Toronto Presbyterian Council will hold its next monthly meeting to-morrow evening in the lecture room of Knox Church. Mr. John A. Patterson, the president, and a well-known Sabbath school superintendent, will give an address on, "How to Secure the Most Effective Sabbath School Teaching." As this is so important a subject and is sure to be ably treated, all who can do so should make it a point to attend. The election of officers for the ensuing year will also take place at this meeting.

THE *Herald and Presbyter* thinks that the article in a contemporary on "The Baptism of Polygamists in Non-Christian Lands" takes dangerous ground in favor of such baptisms. No doubt the *Herald and Presbyter* reasons well, but after all most people will ask whether a high class man like Dr. Kellogg, on the ground, may not be better authority on such a difficult question than even a high class journal thousands of miles away. Dr. Kellogg is face to face with the facts and he has to deal with the stern facts as he finds them.

UNLESS something unusual turns up in the shape of money before the 30th of this month the next may be called the "deficit Assembly." At present a deficit seems painfully probable in almost every fund. As the beginning of a remedy we suggest that the convener of every committee should tell the Church in his report the number of congregations that contribute nothing to his fund. The tap-root of our financial trouble is that the same few have to find the money every year, and a hard year like this some of them are not able to do so.

THERE never was a time in the history of Canadian Presbyterianism when men of constructive ability were needed more than they are needed now. Our system of government and our methods of working, like every other thing in the country, are feeling the strain of business depression. Our work has hitherto proceeded on the theory that the population of the country would rapidly increase. There is little increase anywhere and decrease in some places. Any kind of machinery will do when the people are crowding in and the money is plentiful.

NOVA SCOTIA and New Brunswick manage their schools as they think proper. Some years ago an attempt was made to establish Separate schools in these Provinces and the Protestants kicked furiously. No Separate school system for them. The other day a majority of the representatives of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick voted in favour of the Remedial Bill. Would Brother Murray please give us the optimistic view of this situation.

THE newspapers of New York have been making a great fuss over a minister of the city who preached an Easter sermon that was not his own. If all the Editors who steal news, reports and other matter were exposed at length in the press, there would not be columns enough in the New York press to show them up. Two blacks, however, do not make a white. The minister in question should have honestly told his congregation that he was going to read to them another man's sermon. Perhaps they would have listened none the less attentively on that account.

THE Toronto Bible Training School has just completed a most successful second session. Both day and evening classes have been largely attended, showing very clearly that the school is supplying a much felt need. The annual and closing public meeting of the school is to be held at the Young Women's Guild Hall, McGill St., on Thursday the 30th April, when diplomas will be presented to the graduating class after which short addresses will be given by some of the graduating students. A report of the years' work of the school will be given and Rev. Dr. Parsons and others will address the meeting.

THE question of electing elders to the Moderator's chair was sure to come up sometime, but it could scarcely come to the front at a time less opportune. With a deficit in most of the principal schemes and many practical questions pressing for settlement it is devoutly to be hoped that the Supreme Court will not spend much precious time on matters that are not vital. The condition of our college and mission work is a matter of much more importance than any question of office, and we are certain every elder in the Church will say so. Either declare the elders eligible at once or let the matter rest for a time.

ONE of President Cleveland's brothers is, or rather was, pastor of a village congregation in the State of New York. Naturally enough the Rev. William N. Cleveland took an active interest in the success of his brother Grover and occasionally talked politics. The Republican portion of the congregation took offence and asked the Presbytery to remove their pastor. The Presbytery removed him. If anything of that kind took place in Great Britain what an outcry our neighbours would make about the down trodden people of the effete monarchy. One Scotch parson can with perfect impunity talk and preach more politics at one general election than all the Presbyterian ministers in the United States and Canada dare do during the whole of their professional lives. In the matter of personal liberty the clergy of this continent are not behind the clergy of Great Britain. They are simply not in the race at all.

THE Liberal party in Great Britain wrecked itself on Home Rule. The Education Bill now before the House of Commons is distasteful to a large majority of the Liberals as any one might expect. Though it has some good features it was hardly in the nature of things that a government under the leadership of Salisbury would bring down a measure satisfactory to Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists and other religious bodies that constitute the bone and sinew of the Liberal party. Do the Home Rulers stand by the remnant of Liberals that was not slaughtered at the polls mainly on account of their connection with Home Rule? Not they. Some claims in the Education Bill are favorable to Separate Schools and the Home Rulers and priests are helping the Salisbury government to put the measure through. The ingratitude of politicians has always been well known, but the Home Rulers hold the record. Their company killed the great Liberal party, and now they turn round and kick the corpse.

THE American press is not as lenient to clerical offenders in the matter of plagiarism as our *Globe* used to be. Many years ago a visiting minister from across the lines preached what was said to be one of Dr. Guthrie's sermons, in a Toronto pulpit. Somebody wrote to the *Globe*—somebody always does write in a case of that kind—but the *Globe* refused to publish the letter and merely inserted a brief note saying that no harm was done. Dr. Guthrie was not injured in any way and the congregation had probably gained by the operation. The *Globe* was strong enough to be merciful, and it did not cater to the mob who raise a shout of delight when a clergyman is accused of wrong doing whether guilty or not.

FROM now for the next two months at least there will be a most liberal allowance of ecclesiastical gatherings and speech-making and church news. The Synod of Hamilton and London has already held its annual meeting, reported in this issue, so has the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Other Synods as announced in our advertising columns will meet in rapid succession, and then will follow that of the General Assembly. Every intelligent Presbyterian should keep himself well informed as to the proceedings of these ecclesiastical parliaments. The work of the Church for the past year passes in review in them, its progress or retrogression, and new movements are either inaugurated at them, or those which have been for some time ripening for settlement are decided upon. No burning question is likely to come before these bodies so far as yet appears, and it will be well, if in all these courts, the Church can address itself without distraction to those matters which bear most directly and immediately upon the extension and building up of the Redeemer's Kingdom at home and abroad, as represented in our great Home and Foreign Mission fields, our Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies, Church Life and Work and by means of our colleges. How anyone can take a large and enlightened view of the church's work, and intelligently support it without knowledge we cannot understand, and how they can get this knowledge without a Church paper we are also at a loss to see. Let all seek to know by taking THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and in the light of the knowledge to be gained from it, labor and pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

IT is much to be regretted when the friends of any good movement by an excess of zeal or a certain narrowness of view in their advocacy of it, take up a position which even warm friends cannot agree with them in, and which leads those not friendly to throw at them the charge of being unreasonable and impracticable. These remarks have been called forth by the action taken by the Temperance League of this city at a meeting held last Friday evening. The subject was brought up of a bar in the House of Commons at Ottawa, and the—to use the language of the League—"national crime and disgrace connected with the use of intoxicating liquor within the Houses of Parliament." Few of the people we should suppose see any necessity for a bar in the House of Commons for the sale of liquor, and fewer still, seeing the evils it gives rise to, would wish it to be continued. In its action, however, at the meeting of the League referred to, it went much further and resolved, "That the voters here assembled pledge themselves to oppose at the polls any candidate for the Commons at the coming election who will not promise to vote for the abolition of said saloon in the Houses of Parliament." Important as the Temperance question is, and we believe strongly in prohibition, yet surely it is too much to ask, it is unwise, and must alienate even friends, to ask them to sink out of sight and put aside every public question, no matter how important or vital it may be, for the sole purpose of getting rid of one saloon, that in the House of Parliament at Ottawa. This is surely one-sided with a vengeance. We have met with some men professedly willing to sink every other issue for the sake of prohibition, and a few who were really and truly willing to do so, but for the sake of abolishing just one saloon, to ignore and sink every other public question out of sight is a course which is absurd and wrong, and instead of helping the cause of temperance will be certain to militate against it, by weakening confidence in the wisdom and sound judgment of men who can take and recommend so extreme a course.