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NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ANSWERS" has considerable cause for complaint. We shall take care in it to allow our correspondent to expend himself quite so foolishly.

TO OUR READERS.

This is the first number of our fourth volume. For three years the PRESBYTERIAN has made its weekly visits to an ever increasing number of homes. It has been somewhat hard uphill work, but we have persevered, cheered by the sympathy and assistance, and approval of very many of the excellent of the earth.

MR. CARRUTHER'S CASE.

A Presbyterian Minister's wife sends us a dollar as the contribution of her son—a lad of about 18—who says he will be happy to send the same amount every year. We have handed the money over to the Rev. Mr. Reid, as we could scarcely engage to be the treasurer to such a fund.

A VERY GOOD REASON WHY.

It is often asked why religious Weeklies cannot be published at as low a rate as the weekly editions of the secular dailies. The New York Christian Advocate explains for the sake of some of its subscribers. We reproduce the explanation here because it may save us a great deal of trouble, and serve to remove a serious misapprehension under which a large number of our readers are at present labouring.

The Social Reunion held recently in the Daly Street Presbyterian Church was well attended, and was in all respects a great success. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, presided, and the speakers were the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, Rev. Messrs. Stewart, Gordon, and Hall.

CONTROVERSY IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Although not directly interested, we are not unsympathising witnesses in the struggle now going on in the Church of England. The last thirty years has seen many strange things in that community, and the present generation may not see the end of the revived energy that has shown itself by all parties.

While many have been so consistent as to go over to Rome, the Catholics who remain have been most energetic in re-introducing into the Church of England the impious, ritual, and half-heathen ceremonies and festivals of the Church of the middle ages. Thus, though nominally separate from the Romish communion, thousands in the Established Church approve of SACERDOTALISM, with its priests, its sacrifice, its altar, its robes, its absolution.

The controversy now raging in England is of absorbing interest. There can be little doubt that Monsignor Capel has proved that Romish doctrines are being taught by many in the Church of England, and it is significant that Jesuitical cunning judges the time to have arrived when, throwing off disguise, it may openly carry on its warfare both within and without the pale of the Established Church.

The exciting Broad Church controversy meanwhile experiences a lull. It has been decided that in the state Church a Broad Churchman of the essay and review or Colenso type, may deny every evangelical doctrine and yet be a clergyman, just as a Ritualist may practice almost every thing Popish, and yet evade episcopal inhibition.

In our own province the combat deepens. The complaint of the Churchwardens at Weston, Ont., have at length been so far regarded as to have secured official investigation. The incumbent shows the true Ritualistic spirit; he evades the inquiry, and by resorting to every subterfuge will try to prevent the real issue being arrived at.

For us these matters are fraught with deep interest. We cannot help sympathizing with the Protestant position and aspirations of the Church Association, and wish them success. The Anglican Church can accomplish much in our Dominion if it is true to evangelical religion. On the other hand, the consequences of High Church exclusiveness and assumption, and Ritualistic mummeries, must be to alienate from the Anglican Church all other denominations of Christians, and to prepare the way among our people for the superstitious ignorance and subservient spirit, if not the dominance of Roman Catholicism in our country.

PROTESTANTISM. WHAT IS IT?

"In answer to the question what I meant by telling English Churchmen that the Bishop's charge was 'a brave and clear protest against Protestantism,' I wished to convey this:—that the Bishop had spoken out boldly against modern false doctrines, heresies, and schismatical departures from the faith and practice of the primitive Church, down to the last new sect of the Communists.

We clip the above from a letter signed T. Bedford Jones, and dated Ottawa. We presume the writer is the Rev. Dr. Jones, Rector of St. Alban's Church, the advanced Ritualistic Church of the Metropolis. With the controversy to which it is a contribution we have nothing to do, but the view given of Protestantism is worthy of our consideration.

We cannot think that Dr. Jones has been led to adopt the above outrageous "definition through ignorance of history, but he betrays most lamentable ignorance of the sentiments of Christians other than those within the Church of England. We can understand however, how a mind that has shut itself out from all intercourse with dissenters of any type, and risen to the height of High Churchism from that lofty empyrean of ecclesiastical isolation can proudly look down and refuse even to think of or listen to men who dare to think for themselves without asking the church.

Dr. Jones position leads to Rome, all he says notwithstanding. The only true position is the Protestant one the right of private judgement in interpreting God's revealed will. Nor, we venture to say, would Dr. Jones object if the private judgment of any Protestant should lead him to accept the church's exposition of Scripture; it is only when private judgement is against the reverend gentleman that he is against the Protestant's right to exercise it.

On Friday evening the 5th February, a number of the Barton congregation visited the manse of their pastor at Ancaster. They provided for themselves and other guests a generous repast. After some time had been pleasantly spent by the party, Mr. Young read an address expressive of the esteem of the people of Barton for their pastor and his wife, and presented to the latter a very handsome sewing machine of the best description.

Ministers and Churches.

The 1st congregation of the C. P. Church in the Township of Chinguacousy, dedicated their new building to the service of God on Sabbath, the 24th ult. The Rev. W. T. McMullen, of Woodstock, officiated in the morning and in the evening. The Rev. J. M. King of Toronto, in the afternoon. The services were throughout in unison with the special occasion, and the sermons, in which prominence was given to the fundamental doctrines of our religion, and to the exhibition of Jesus Christ, as the Saviour of the fallen, and the head over all things to the Church, were alike from the subjects, and the freshness with which they were invested, calculated to rouse many to serious thought, and to comfort and cheer the Christian in his higher life.

PRESENTATION AT OAKVILLE.—One of those mutually pleasing little affairs which are not soon forgotten by any concerned, and which serve to encourage ministers in their work of faith and labor of love, transpired at the Presbyterian manse in this town last Wednesday evening, when Rev. Mr. Meikle and family, were unexpectedly visited by numerous self-invited guests from the congregation of the Presbyterian church, on the sixteenth. During the evening, which was very pleasantly spent, Mr. Meikle was presented with a purse containing a hundred dollars, as a token of love, esteem and gratitude, in recognition of the valuable services rendered their church in years past.

At a meeting of the members of the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, held on Wednesday evening, the following gentlemen were elected Trustees for the year, 1875:—Messrs. J. A. Cameron, James Kyle, J. Lafayette, W. McCullough, and T. Tate. Mr. A. Stewart the retiring Treasurer, read the financial report for the past year, which was extremely encouraging. The church was free from debt, and there being a surplus over, a bonus of \$100 was voted to the worthy pastor, Mr. Traver. During the year the congregation has also raised as much money as to pay off the mortgage on the manse, about \$1,000. It is in contemplation to provide better accommodation for the Sabbath School, which is much wanted, the present basement, where the School is held, being altogether unfit for the purpose. All this has been done by the members and adherents of the church, a fact which speaks well for their liberality.

The Sabbath School Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church, Barrie, was held last evening. The basement was excessively crowded, many persons not being able to find standing room. The various Reading Recitations, &c., were excellent. A striking feature in the evening's entertainment was the tender age of some of the children who recited, many of them being mere infants. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. John Beattie, J. McL. Stevenson, Rector of Bradford. The appearance of the Sunday School is very much improved by the new illuminated texts and mottoes which now adorn the walls.

The Orillia Packet says: The annual Missionary Meeting in Esson Church, Ont., on the 27th of January, was well attended. The Rev. R. Fraser, B.A., gave an excellent address on the subject of Missions—particularly the Home Missions. Rev. R. Fairbairn, Pastor, occupied the chair. The choir, under the leadership of Mr. Richard Anderson, added to the interest of the proceedings by singing a selection of suitable hymns.

The four leading religious denominations of Philadelphia report churches and communicants as follows: Baptists, 31 churches, 16,507 communicants; Episcopalians, 79 churches, 18,125 communicants; Methodists, 75 churches, 19,770 communicants; Presbyterians, (not including the "United" and "Reformed" branches, which together number about 11,000 communicants,) 72 churches and 22,035 communicants.

The Church Herald, Toronto, says the Orillia Packet, has been amalgamated with the Church Journal, of New York, an arrangement which seems undesirable, and likely to be of short duration. The Episcopalians in Canada are quite able, and we believe would be willing to support a Church paper, representing the body, as the Guardian does the Methodists, and the British American Presbyterian the Presbyterians.

The sum of \$9,000 has already been subscribed by the Rev. Mr. Middlemiss congregation, in Elora, to build a new church, for which a plan is now being selected. With this view, a deputation consisting of the Rev. Mr. Middlemiss, Messrs. J. M. Fraser, R. Cromer, A. Gordon, and Jas. Gladstone, arrived in Guelph to inspect the churches in that town.

The Woodstock Sentinel remarks: "The energy of the members of the C. P. Church, Ratho, is something wonderful. During last summer they almost wholly rebuilt their church, and during the last seven or eight years they have built their manse three times, it being destroyed by fire twice."

The Rev. J. McTaviah, of Woodstock, has been invited to hold a series of meetings under the auspices of the Orillia Young Men's Christian Association, and the Expositor is informed he has consented to do so. Particulars of the meetings will be given in due time.

An English rector, having a salary of \$10,000 a year, having failed for \$120,000, comprising with his sixty-four creditors at 25 per cent., has been requested by his bishop to resign. He has declined, and says that, having "great expectations," he will eventually pay up in full.

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Godorich, have paid off one half the debt on the manse—\$300. The remaining portion will soon be paid off, as a good portion is already subscribed.

Rev. Joshua Fraser, B.A., now of Whitby, preached in the "Kirk" on Sabbath evening last. His sermon was eloquent and effective, and was highly spoken of.

The Rev. J. P. Baikie, has declined the call from the congregations of Hanover and West Bentick.

Rev. Jas. Bryant was ordained minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church, Glendon, on the 26th January.

The ladies of St. John's Church, Almonte, intend holding a series of soirees during the remainder of the winter.

The old Knox Church, Paisley, is to be sold and removed.

A sacred concert in Knox Church, Montreal, last week, realized \$125.

The Presbyterians of Meaford have placed an organ in their church.