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NEW YORK CHURCH SPECULATION.

"Metropolitan," writing to *Zion's Herald*, presents an interesting though gloomy view of several celebrated pastors and churches:—

"The Hanson Place Baptist Church, has a sort of miniature Tremont Temple on its hands. It had an elegant and cosy family church, large enough for some years to come, with Sunday-school and conference meeting rooms. To please Mr. Fulton, who promised to give them a Tremont Temple congregation, they pulled out the Sunday-school rooms, and added them to the audience-room, put in a huge gallery sweeping clear around the house, after the order of Spurgeon, and presented to the congregation church room for twelve hundred. The galleries were never filled, and three hundred was a large congregation. Eighteen months' services sufficed for the Church and pastor. Mr. Fulton then left taking with him a hundred of the membership. The memorial of his work in Brooklyn is a white elephant in the shape of a huge debt and a caravansary of a church. The membership is rarely excellent, and nothing is wanted but a prudent, rational and devoted minister. The society has some hope of securing Rev. Dr. Taylor of Providence. It is known that he will leave the First Church, as that is very conservative, and he is very aggressive. Both Strong Place Church and Washington Avenue would like to call the same man. It is not a little singular that the three leading Baptist Churches of the State of New York are without a pastor, and cannot secure one. Mr. Hepworth's Church have made money by their failure. A debt of ninety-five thousand dollars was wiped off at once, and the prospect is that the edifice, which was knocked down for one hundred thousand dollars, will be bought in by the society for fifty thousand dollars.

SELLING CHURCHES.

This seems to be the pastime of the hour. Dr. Carroll's elegant church which was built wholly on credit, has been sold under the mortgage, and the society disbanded. This Church was Dutch. A speculator run up an immense bill which he devoted to Presbyterianism. The thing was a real estate speculation from the corner-stone to the tarret. Of course it failed, and the Congregationalists, under Mr. Helmer, are trying to get a society, and can buy the church at a third of its cost. The Pilgrim Baptist Church has been sold to the Catholics. The Twenty-fifth Street Baptist Church is to follow suit. The Fifty-third Street Baptist Church has been sold under the hammer, and other churches heavily laden with debt will probably meet the same fate."

On Saturday morning the gentlemen in attendance at the Committees of Review at Nottingham were astonished to hear that Mr. Pope's medical adviser had recommended him not to attend Conference previous to the election of President. The announcement did not greatly surprise those who have conversed recently with the Didsbury Theologian. It is useless to prophesy about the Presidency, because when this is read in the *Methodist* it will be known who is first among his brethren. Just now those who hoped to see Mr. Pope in the chair look towards Dr. Riggs and Mr. Coley, and those who thought Mr. Pope's turn had not yet come—and such were not few—look with increased hope towards Mr. McAulay. The great comfort is that all of them are good and suitable men, and that the great Head of the Church is really our President.

It may interest his friends at a distance to know that his friends at Conference are not alarmed about the state of Mr. Pope's health; but they hope and expect to have

the great pleasure of hearing his voice during the debate on the subject of Lay Representation. He is quite expected to speak, and his speech will doubtless be one of the most noteworthy on his side of the house.

The attendance of laymen at the Committees of Review was, perhaps, not so large as usual. There can be no doubt that the feeling of laymen about their admission to Conference has become intensified, and it is rare to meet one in private conversation who does not declare himself in favour of the proposed change.—*London Methodist.*

CHARLIE ROSS.

A writer to the *Boston Post* promises definite and early information respecting this poor child. He gives a lengthy letter, a part of which we extract:—
"The *London Times* of January, 1874, devoted eight columns to the Charley Ross abduction. As the *London Times* is not in the habit of devoting much space to trifles, it merely shows the interest felt and shown abroad in this sad case. As many Boston friends have been anxious to know the result of the investigations made by a Boston man, I would say to them that unless Charley Ross was dragged by two women between the death and burial of Mosher and Douglas, in all human probability

CHARLEY ROSS WAS CONCEALED IN BOSTON SEVERAL MONTHS.

The child was brought here by a sailing vessel by a partner of Mosher and Douglass. A picture of Charley Ross has been identified by several who knew the child referred to, as being a correct likeness, and as the writer feels confident the woman and child have never left the state, but are concealed within fifty miles of Boston, he proposed in his next letter to give a full and minute description of all the parties, in hopes that other papers will, in the interests of humanity, copy the description and thereby cause the arrest of the criminals. The reasons for thinking the right trail has been struck at last will be given also, and the public can then judge of the facts for themselves. I would here say one word in behalf of the much abused class, the detective. In Boston, Brooklyn, New York and Philadelphia, the writer has yet to find a man on the force whose courtesy was not extended to the writer, and whose sympathies and hard work were not freely given to Mr. Ross and his afflicted family.

A writer to the *St. John Telegraph* gives this synopsis of the aims and objects of the Educational Society of the Methodist Church of Canada.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas, Vice-President of Canadian Methodism, in the absence of the President, Dr. Ryerson, presided at the deliberations of the Board. The objects and scope of this Educational Society are not only of especial interest to Methodists, but also possess a general interest for other denominations engaged in the important work of the higher education. Provision was made for the organization of this Society at the time Canadian Methodism was ecclesiastically consolidated into one Church "in order to combine in one effort the entire educational work of our Church." And for that purpose societies "shall be formed in our circuits, stations and missions" from Newfoundland to British Columbia, having a central aim and a common purpose; and are under the control of a central board. "The objects of this society shall be to assist in maintaining our Universities, Theological Schools and Higher Mission Schools; to defray the expenses of the examination of candidates for the ministry in our church; and to aid such candidates in obtaining an education." A subscriber to the extent of five dollars per annum is constituted a member of the Society. The Institutions under the control of the Central Board, are the University of Victoria College, Ontario; the Mount Allison Wesleyan College and Academies, at Sackville; the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal; and the Wesleyan Institute of Manitoba. The great purpose of the Methodist Church in founding the Society, is to provide permanent means to ensure an educated ministry. Young men, therefore, having the ministry in view, but, as is too often the case—unable from their slender means to give themselves that training necessary for their sacred calling, are to be assisted from the funds of this Society, so far as these funds will permit. The income of the Society for 1875-6 was \$7,569. Of this amount \$510 (net) was contributed by Nova Scotia, and \$445 by the N. B. and P. E. I. The expenditures for the same period to assist Theological students, was,

at Victoria College \$2280; at Theological Institute, Montreal, \$1540; at Sackville \$1440—in all, \$5,260. The entire expenditure for the year was \$10,739, being an excess of \$3170 over total income. This deficiency will have to be made up during the ensuing educational year. The number of students in training for the ministry last year, was seventy-one, so that these did not quite, on an average, receive aid to the extent of \$100 each. It was determined by the Board that efforts should be made this present year to raise \$16,000. It was thought the requirements of the Society would require fully that amount. Rev. Dr. Pickard thought the church should have at least one hundred and fifty young men constantly in training to meet the present demands of church work and that \$100 a year would be a fair average assistance to these young men. Of course those who are able to obtain an education for themselves either from personal means, or through their parents, are expected to do so. Still the average charge, making allowance for such, will be fully \$100. One thing transpired at the meeting, which, however, was previously known to many of our people, that the efforts to obtain a permanent endowment for Sackville, had been much more successful than a similar effort on behalf of Victoria University.

THE CROPS IN THIS PROVINCE.

Of late years crop reports have become interesting to others than farmers, and each season there is a desire felt and expressed to know how things will turn out, the popular idea being that if abundant harvests are secured times will be easy and comfort general, while if the crops fail trouble is sure to ensue. There is a good deal of truth in this idea, and although Nova Scotia is not yet as largely agricultural a Province as it may be made, the farming interest is sufficiently great to have much influence on our general prosperity. The impression has gone abroad a good deal that this season's crops would far exceed those of previous years, but unfortunately this is not likely to be the case to the extent anticipated, and a decrease may even be looked for. From the reports we have obtained we find that as regards hay there will be an average crop in good lands, being over the average on the dyke lands, but very much under it on the dry uplands and where the soil is poor. The hot dry weather which has prevailed has much to do with this result, and the probable deficiency will be a third of the whole crop, that is, of course, over the whole extent of the Province. On the other hand there is a good growth of after grass.

As a whole potatoes and root crops generally will yield a light crop on the light uplands, but in heavy soils potatoes are more promising than usual and as there is no indication of blight—and no reason to fear that it will trouble the farmer this year—the prospects of a heavy potato crop are generally good. Turnips are not up to the mark, being poor. Garden vegetables have prospered uncommonly well, ripening much earlier than usual and yielding in great numbers. Already cucumbers and squashes obtained from open air sowings, are plentiful, and the per centage of tomatoes ripening will be much above the average.

Early in the year there was every reason to believe that the fruit crop would be large, but as the season went on the hopes of growers diminished. The show of blossoms was superb and led every one to expect trees laden down in October, but apples and other fruits have fallen off most unaccountably during the months of June and July, the great heats have probably something to do with them. The brilliant sunshine is, however, doing good work now, the fruit coloring nicely under its influence.

The probability is, then, that the returns of crops of all kinds from all parts of the Province will show that the season has been a good one, although not by any means as good as was anticipated some time ago. But there will be no decided failures, if there is no increase, and with such a state of things we may well be content. Our farmers will as a rule, do well and need not fear

the coming winter. By the time all the crops are garnered, too, it may turn out that some have improved and that the result is on the whole favorable to the Province.—*Chronicle.*

AN IMPRESSIVE INCIDENT.

The *Journal and Messenger* narrates an impressive and suggestive incident which took place in the Centennial Board of Commissioners, Philadelphia, during the recent discussion of the Sunday question:—

After all had been talking on the question, and some were getting tired of the discussion, Mr. Haynes, of Nevada, rose and said: "Mr. President, before the question is taken, I wish to say a word. I feel like a returned prodigal, and I want to make a confession. More than twenty years ago, I went out from an Eastern home to the far West. I have lived since then beyond the Rocky Mountains, where we hardly have a Sabbath, and where other than the best moral influences are about us. But as I have listened here this afternoon, old memories have come back to me." The speaker struggled with strong emotions, and he continued with choking voice: "All these truths were familiar to me long ago, and it seems to me again, today, that I hear them repeated as I used to hear them from the lips of my sainted mother, as every evening I knelt by her side in prayer. I want to give my vote in favour of observing the Christian Sabbath."

THE STRANGE ACCIDENT TO MRS. PROF. PRENTICE.

I have just returned from a visit to Prof. Prentice, who is keeping watch over his suffering and slowly expiring companion. Immediately on recovering the body of his wife from the terrible chasm into which she fell, Prof. Prentice removed her to the house of his father, some two miles distant. She was in a state of complete unconsciousness meanwhile. It was thought by the physician first seeing her that the skull had been fractured, but further consultation and examination proved the contrary, and also disclosed the fact that not a single bone in her body was broken in that fall of over fifty-six feet. There were two contused wounds on the upper portion of the head, the scalp being almost completely torn off, and some other severe bruises on different parts of the body.

Shortly after reaching the house from which she had gone that morning in so dreadful a condition physically, she recovered her consciousness, which she has retained almost continuously since, save when the unavoidable use of powerful anaesthetics has interrupted it. But the entire lower part of the body, from the middle of the abdomen, has remained utterly paralyzed. She is able to move her hands and arms, and slightly her head, but in all other respects is as helpless as a babe. The physicians pronounce her recovery utterly impossible.

The locality at which this terrible casualty occurred is one of the most weird which the ruggedest geological regions often develop. By some tremendous convulsion of nature, an enormous chasm, of nearly a half mile in length, and something like a hundred feet in depth, and half that width, has at some not very remote day in the past been suddenly formed here. The perfectly vertical walls indicate the disturbance to have originated at a great subterranean depth, and the horribly confused condition of the bottom of the abyss presents a fearful picture to the imagination of the ponderous forces at work when such huge masses of rock were sent toppling down from above. Large caverns are left, many of them of the most fantastic form.

The visitor in passing through the defile is alternately well nigh roasted and frozen, so that "Purgatory" was given it for a christening; and not in-

aply has one singular spot been called the "Devil's Bed-room," another his "Corn crib," and hard by is "Pulpit Rock." Ice, it is said, can be obtained at any time of the year in some of the many cavernous recesses, and, judging from the perfectly frigid currents of air striking through one's clothing, there is no doubt it is so. *Com. to N. Y. Advocate*

On the 2nd inst., Rev. Mr. Parent, Protestant Missionary at Oka, was warned officially to leave his house in twenty-four hours, in default of which legal proceedings were to be brought against him. The *Montreal Witness* gives a copy of the notice, and adds,

"The Indians, on hearing of the presentation of this document, were much excited and asked the Missionary to remain under any circumstances, and were willing, if necessary to defend him. He came to Montreal on Wednesday, to obtain legal advice, and is resolved to remain in Oka till he is 'carried across the river.' The next action on the part of the Seminary is anxiously expected, and will doubtless exhibit a little more of the true character of the men into whose charge the cure of the Indian souls was left, and who appear to perform this duty by starving their bodies.

It is a matter of interest to note that Hon. Mr. Laird, Minister of Interior, coming down from Ottawa, met Rev. Mr. Parent on the boat, and was informed of the last transaction.

On Sunday morning last three special trains, carrying Barnum's show, rolled and screamed into St. John from Moncton, where the concern had been exhibited on Saturday night. Perhaps if this had ended the Sunday work there would not have been much complaint. But after the trains arrived there was the noise and bustle of removing the property from the cars, conveying it through the streets of the city, shipping it a board a steamer to cross the harbor, and then placing it on the Consolidated Railway, which ran all day to take the show to Bangor. The quiet of the Sabbath was unjustifiably disturbed and the prayers of the clergymen in their forenoon services interrupted by the screaming of the whistles of the railways and steamboats engaged in the service of Mr. Barnum. That a certain amount of Sunday labor is unavoidable in some lines of business is a fact generally admitted. Newspaper-men have to plead guilty to a share of it. But it certainly should be the desire of all the authorities in charge of our public works, as well as of individuals in private business, to keep a check on this Sunday work and see that it does not go too far. We believe that many who look at the Sunday labor question from a very reasonable point of view will doubt the propriety of special Sunday trains being provided to carry a circus company and their property. It would have done Barnum's company no harm, but rather much good, had they spent last Sunday quietly at Moncton, and gone on to Bangor on Monday.—*Chronicle.*

A METEORIC SHOWER.—Some of our local astronomers who have heretofore made interesting observations of meteoric showers will be pleased to learn that the earth is about to commence its periodical plunge into the meteoric stream, or great shooting star shower, an occurrence that will be repeated with greater effect in November next. The August epoch continues five days, and we may therefore expect to witness during that period some fiery displays in the heavens. Owing to the prolonged and intense heated term of last month more than ordinary interest is taken in the anticipated phenomenon. The spaces through which the bodies of the solar system and the comets travel appear also to be traversed by other celestial bodies, comparatively minute and in numbers incalculable. Zones of these bodies, consisting of countless myriads of them, there is reason to infer, revolve about the sun, and certain astronomers consider that some of them have been minute satellites moons on a small scale to the earth. These smaller asteroids, when they approach within a comparatively small distance from the planet we inhabit, subsequently become the objects termed shooting stars, fire balls and meteors.