

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Editor and Proprietor.*
OFFICE—NO. 8 JORGAN ST., TORONTO.

TO SUBSCRIBERS

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

Post office money order or registered letter at our risk. Money mailed in unregistered letters will be at the risk of the sender.

The figures following name on address label indicate the date to which the paper is paid. Thus, John Jones, 31 Dec. 7, shows subscription paid up to end of 1877.

Orders to discontinue the paper must be accompanied by the amount due, or the paper will not be stopped. Subscribers are responsible until full payment is made.

Receipt of money is acknowledged (no other receipt is given) by a change of figures on label, and if this is not done within two weeks of date of remittance the Publisher should be notified. Subscribers should from time to time examine label, so that mistakes, if any, may be corrected.



TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1879.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

A CONVENTION in the interests of the cause of Temperance was recently held in this city. The reports and discussions, which occupied several days, were of an exceedingly interesting and instructive nature. They showed that the cause was making successful advances in more than one direction. There was a very decided feeling in favour of amending the present acts of Parliament, which have reference to this subject, or of agitating for a new law to control the sale of liquor.

After all, the great matters in connection with the Temperance cause are the education of the children in the principles of abstinence, and the introduction of simple pledges into Sabbath schools, and other organizations of the young. This work is—we are glad to say—being largely undertaken by the Churches, and is most promising for the future of the cause of Temperance. Let us have the children, and we have gained Canada for ultimate prohibition.

It is very pleasing to observe that the young and rising generation is rather opposed to the drinking usages and practices which pertained to the olden times. The sentiment has only to grow, and—with the blessing of God—it will bring about the day when drink will drop out of our social customs, out of the list of beverages, and we are inclined to think out of the class of medicines. There is an altered feeling towards alcoholic drinks amongst the leading physicians of all countries. And a most important sign of the times is the fact that four members of the Royal family are abstainers.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

BLANK schedules have been sent to all the congregations, and a number to each Presbytery clerk, to supply vacant congregations etc. Should the blanks have failed in any case to reach the proper parties, they should apply to the clerk of their Presbytery. All congregational returns should be sent to the respective Presbytery clerks on or before 3rd April. W. R. Toronto, Jan. 22, 1878.

HOME MISSIONS.

THE report of the Home Missionary operations of the Church of England read at a meeting which was held last week in St George's church of this city, revealed a serious deficiency in the contributions for the year. This led to an earnest and practical discussion upon the state of the funds and upon the consequent outlook. There was serious apprehension manifested concerning the traits and difficulties which many ministers in the country would have to meet during the current severe and trying winter. It is indeed necessary to emphasize this aspect of the matter, as too little heed is given by contributors to the consequences which must result from however slight a reduction they may make upon their gifts to such a fund. Many are too ready to say, it will not matter much if I give a dollar instead of a dollar and a half or two dollars, or twenty instead of fifty cents. But it is evident at a glance that where there is a large membership, as in the Church of England, the reduction of even a few cents per head in one year would seriously affect the finances.

Let those who have the interests of Christ's kingdom at heart consider what is meant by deficiency in the revenue of Home Missions. It means the crippling of the minister in preaching the Gospel and discharging the manifold duties of his office. It means suffering to mothers who are struggling with a hard lot, and hardship to helpless children. It signifies more than this, even the starving of the minds and hearts of those called to minister at the altar. It implies worries and heart burnings that will greatly mar the usefulness and happiness of pastors. The members of churches should consider these matters. Of course there is the cry of hard times, but let us reflect, how much more hard they will be made to those who are afflicted with chronic hard times. Our saving should begin with the luxuries of life. There is more spent by members of churches upon tobacco and other indulgences than would endow the Home Missionary Ministers with princely munificence. And so far as we have observed, it is not the poorest members who make the greatest outcry about hard times, and the reduction of Home Mission salaries. These often continue giving from their poverty in the fulness of their liberality, what they might with good reason retain for themselves and families.

There is a word of warning from this report of the proceedings of a sister church, which is emphatically addressed to the members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This Church has great interests at stake. It has the maintenance of Missionaries over the length and breadth of a continent in its hands. The erection of churches, the support of Sabbath schools—all the pioneer work that is being carried on in our land—are dependent upon our contributions to the Assembly's Home Mission scheme. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane, the excellent convener of the committee, has over and over again called attention to the low state of the finances. We wish our readers to weigh well

what must inevitably follow from inadequate support of this most vital object. The suffering of ministers who have given themselves in all good faith to the work must result, and this means privation to the families of many pastors, and damage to the great Home Mission cause.

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS BY PRESBYTERIES.

WE have before us the "Statistical and Financial Report of the Presbytery of Huron, 1877-8;" and we propose making it the basis of some brief remarks, calling attention not so much to the contents of this particular report as to the advantage which would accrue to the Church were each Presbytery to compile such a report annually and furnish a copy of it to every family in every congregation within the bounds. The financial table in the report we speak of seems to have been prepared with considerable care, and supplies, in a most simple and accessible form, information which must be extremely useful to congregations and to individual members. The statistics and financial affairs of the whole Church, of the Presbytery, and of each congregation in the Presbytery, are brought into juxtaposition, so that a person can, with very little trouble, assure himself that the Presbytery in which his lot is cast has been doing its proper share in the work of the Church; that the congregation whereof he is a member has been doing its part in the work of the Presbytery; and that he himself has not neglected his share in the work of the congregation. To be able to ascertain such facts as these beyond all possibility of doubt must be to the enquirer a source of unmixed satisfaction. Nor is the enquiry less useful, though perhaps not so pleasant, in cases where it leads to opposite results. To know wherein we have failed in the past is the first step towards success in the future. It would not be easy, in our opinion, to point out a more effective way of pulling a defaulting congregation up to the mark, than by just letting the Session, the Deacons' Court, the managers, the members, all have a peep at a comparative statistical and financial table such as that now before us; and if our Presbyteries wish to have the congregations within their bounds and the individual members of these congregations brought up to the standard of duty in the matter of contributing to the maintenance of religion and the spread of the Gospel, they will follow the example of the Presbytery of Huron.

RESUMPTION DAY.

THERE could not have been a happier title given than that of Resumption Day to the second of January, on which the premium on gold in the United States disappeared we trust for ever. This result could not have been brought about by a new enactment, or arbitrary law, which might declare that on a certain day gold and green-backs would be placed upon an equality. Such could only be reached by means of good harvests, by developing mineral wealth, by improvements in commerce, and by the industry and