

British American Presbyterian, 102 BAY STREET, TORONTO. FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE FRONT PAGE. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Editor and Proprietor

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning. All communications should be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted. Articles of accepted will be returned, at the time they are sent, a receipt as to the effect, and sufficient postage stamps are enclosed. Manuscripts not accompanied by postage stamps, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

British American Presbyterian, FRIDAY, JULY 21 1876.

The Permissive Bill was rejected in the British House of Commons by 239 to 81 votes.

The Rev. John Dunbar, formerly of Glenmorris, is to supply in the meantime the pulpit of the Rev. Dr. Cook of Quebec.

The third Synod of the Old Catholics was held last month at Lond. Thirty-one priests and seventy six delegates were present.

The quartette from Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs. Perkins, rendered effective service during the Y. M. C. A. Convention by their beautiful rendering of a number of hymns and other sacred pieces.

The Bengal Government has appointed a native inspectress of the female schools in Calcutta. She is the daughter of a Bengalee clergyman. This is the first appointment of the kind.

The Zulus of Africa, naturally a mild and tractable people, take readily to Christianity. They observe the Christian Sabbath. They are settling in homes and becoming cultivators of the soil.

The statue of Rev. John Witherspoon, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, is to be unveiled in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, during the current month. It stands twelve and a half feet high.

The West Congregational Church is to be congratulated in having reached the point of laying the foundation stone of their new building on Spadina Avenue. The interesting ceremony took place on Saturday.

In the Established Church, Campbelltown, a curious plan was adopted to satisfy the friends of unfermented wine. These were supplied with this in the communion service, while the ordinary wine was served to the majority of the congregation.

Immediately after the rising of the Presbyterian Synod of England, Rev. Dr. Anderson, Moderator, received a telegram from "the friends of freedom and Presbyterianism in Christiania," with congratulations on the union recently accomplished.

Rev. Dr. Field, proprietor of the New York Evangelist, has landed at San Francisco, having thus almost completed the tour round the world. His letters have been exceedingly instructive, and we doubt not a valuable volume will shortly be added to the library of travel from the pen of the Doctor.

Sabbath, 18th June, was "Hospital Sunday" in London. Collections were made in nearly all the Metropolitan Churches. In 1875 eleven hundred places of worship contributed £27,700, 8s. 1d. The amount realized this year is expected to be larger than on any previous occasion. This is a capital idea, and is well worthy of being adopted in every country.

Mr. James Baird, the Scottish millionaire, has left most of his property to his relatives. His death was sudden, and he may not have carried out his expressed intention of leaving a second half million sterling to religious objects. The gift of half a million sterling to the Church of Scotland entitles Mr. Baird to be classed amongst the illustrious givers of the age.

Mr. John Macdonald, President of the Y. M. C. A. of Toronto, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Convention, on Saturday entertained all the Delegates and their ladies at his beautiful residence so well named Oaklands. There must have been four hundred present. The weather was everything that could be desired, and every one was delighted with the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, and with the shaded groves and beautiful scenery of Oaklands. The Delegates, as the Globe of Monday says of them too generally and somewhat unjustly, were gushing with eloquence. And no wonder! It was an occasion long to be remembered. The services conducted there were peculiarly lively and refreshing.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

Public attention has been powerfully directed to the International Convention which was held in Toronto during the greater part of last week. It is doubtful whether previously to this gathering we have had proper views of the Y. M. C. A. work, either as to its nature or its proportions. The Convention has done much to enlighten our minds as to these points. We are now in a position to appreciate far better the merits and also defects of these Associations.

Those of our readers who have followed the movements of the Convention must have been struck with the number and character of the men who have come hither as delegates. The Chairman is evidently one who stands out prominently amongst his compeers. Gentlemanly in his bearing, prompt in action, deeply in earnest as to practical religion, gifted with no ordinary wisdom and eloquence, he made himself felt during the entire Convention. It pained us to read the criticism of our contemporary, the Mail, on portions of his opening address, because it did not do justice to the man. His words in which he expressed the wish that he were without experience, were intended to convey the idea of how much he felt the necessity of entirely depending upon God for guidance while presiding over the Convention. They certainly did not give utterance to the sickly sentimentalism which the Mail ascribed to them of undervaluing experience in all the various directions of practical work. Mr. Sturgis impressed us with the feeling that, while he was a successful man of business, he was earnest and enthusiastic in every good cause. It would be well if our contemporary, instead of criticising such a man as effeminate, would employ its great influence on its editorial columns of holding him up as an example to the robust young men of our day. The Chairman was one of many who attracted special attention at this Convention. Mr. Williams, of London, as the founder of Y. M. C. Associations, and as a man yet in his prime, was the object of much interest. He is gifted with a fund of quiet humor and of earnestness, that makes him always a welcome occupant of the floor or the platform. His countryman, Mr. Hodder, is the type of an accomplished and devout Englishman. Amongst the American Delegates the Rev. Dr. Robinson, of Louisville, Ky., is a prominent personage. This divine is well-known to the people of Toronto as having lived amongst them for some time during the American rebellion, and attracted large audiences to hear his lectures and sermons. His address on the Bible in the Metropolitan Church will long be remembered as one of no ordinary ability and interest. The Rev. Dr. Byars made most favourable impressions on various occasions, and especially in the Shaftesbury Hall on Sunday week at the mass meeting, and in the Baptist Church on Saturday evening. His work is amongst criminals. His knowledge of human nature is extensive. He speaks with great pathos, and the impression he makes is always a telling one. Mr. Thane Miller occupies a conspicuous place at the Convention. While stone blind, he has a noble look and bearing. As one gifted like Mr. Sankoy with the faculty of singing solos which call for a full-hearted chorus on the part of the audience, as one who possesses the power of extemporaneous prayer in no ordinary degree, and as one always ready with the right word at the right time and place, he exercises a commanding influence. Various delegates spoke on the Railway question whose words were very telling; amongst whom we may name the Hon. John Hill, of New Jersey, Mr. Lang Sheaf, and Mr. Stager. The last is a railway employe, converted some four years ago, and already prominent as a worker in the Y. M. C. A. interest. A number of Germans attracted special attention. Mr. Schlumenbach at once took hold of the vast audience at the Metropolitan Church on Thursday evening. He was introduced as "Shirback." He was, however, anything but that, his great German dimensions at once dispelling the delusion created by the pronunciation of his name. The last we shall mention, though by no means the least, was our own John Macdonald, who really diffused himself over the Convention, and did himself honor and his fellow-citizens credit by the excellent manner in which he gave welcome to our guests, and by the practical wisdom with which he spoke on many of the leading topics.

The Convention may be congratulated in having put before the public the multifarious work in which the Y. M. C. Associations are engaged. These, besides their regular secretaries, employ to some extent state agents, who visit the cities and towns, and establish Associations wherever they go. Their reports showed them to have been wonderfully successful during the past year. It was interesting to find that a large portion of the time of the Convention was given to the consideration of the Southern States. A door is opening in the south for the establishment of Christianizing work. The fact that individual dele-

gates contributed seven hundred dollars on the spot for the carrying on of work in these Southern States, showed how deeply the Convention were interested in them. The reports as to the great West and North-west were also very encouraging. The young men are advancing steadily towards the Pacific. They are establishing their societies in every town and city. But the work that interested us most was that amongst railway men. The statement that there are 500,000 men employed on the railways of the United States was an astounding one. The fact that there are now many Y. M. C. Associations established amongst them was most interesting. The vast amount of human life and property that are entrusted to those workers is of itself sufficient to show the importance of Christian work being carried on amongst them. For in proportion as these men are sober and conscientious, there will be a consequent saving to life and property entrusted to their care, while, of course, the hazardous nature of their calling makes their own salvation a matter of supreme importance in the eyes of Christians. It must be pleasing to the people of Toronto to learn that the contributions given at this Convention amount to one thousand dollars more than at any previous Convention, a fact that will make the visit of these delegates to our city a memorable one, and that will have an important bearing upon the future operations of the society.

Nor can we overlook the actual work in street preaching and other services which was done by members of the Convention during their stay with us. We spoke of this last week. Since then many open air meetings have been held. It was referred to as something unusual that at one of these opposition was given to the speakers by some of our "roughs." It surprised us to hear so much comment made upon this circumstance. For Toronto, though all that was said of it by many of these delegates—though a beautiful city, a city enjoying the reputation of having every educational and civil advantage, a city of churches, is still far from being perfect. That there was opposition shows the necessity for such missionary work being done amongst us. Of course we do not justify the police for being indifferent as to the rights of those gentlemen, or as it has been charged actually encouraging the rowdies in their opposition. We only mention it to show to these delegates how greatly their efforts were needed. Last Sabbath was a day long to be remembered in the calendar of our churches. Most of our pulpits were supplied by members of the Convention. Rev. Dr. Robinson attracted immense audiences, and many of the lay delegates did valiant service in the pulpit. There were, of course, some speakers who did not come up to the standard of pulpit utterance, but they were all to be commended for their earnestness. At the same time, many able and eloquent addresses were delivered by those laymen which were highly appreciated by all who heard them.

The farewell meeting was certainly a great success. The Metropolitan Church was crowded to the doors—platform, aisles, passages and all. It was a splendid gathering. Words of kindly benediction were spoken by representatives from the south, the west, from Canada and England. Mr. Macdonald, the President of the Toronto Y. M. C. A., spoke the word of good-bye feelingly and affectionately. And after a most appropriate address from the President of the Convention, all the delegates present gathered on and around the platform, and having been led in prayer by Mr. Wilkie, the Secretary of Toronto, and having taken one another by the hand, sung with telling effect the hymn—"Blest be the tie which binds." And after the benediction by the Rev. Dr. Potts, the vast assemblage slowly melted away.

We should not forget to state that besides the Metropolitan, the Jarvis Street Baptist Church and Shaftesbury Hall were likewise crowded, and exercises of a similar nature were conducted in both of these places.

We feel that no apology is needed for this lengthened article. Our citizens were thoroughly interested in the Convention. It was a great occasion, as it can rarely happen that such an international body will meet in Toronto. It may be many years before this city is again favoured with the convention of Y. M. C. Associations. And the proceedings were of such a nature that we take it for granted our readers are anxious to know all about them. We are glad for one reason that this Convention has been held in our city. It has convinced us that there is a special field of work for these Y. M. C. Associations. Dr. Byars clearly stated that work at the Jarvis Street Baptist Church meeting on Saturday night. It was a work which ministers could not undertake. It was a work which congregations would fail to accomplish. It was a work not of denominational up-building. It was a work for humanity. It was to be done in the interests of the fallen and degraded. It was to be done for the salvation of the young men of the

country. The work looks in the direction of adding all the Churches. All the lines of those Associations actually terminate in the congregations. There should, therefore, be harmonious co-operation between congregations and associations. Ministers are, or should be, ex officio members of such societies.

We may safely look for the uprising of a new interest in the Y. M. C. Association of Toronto. Its rooms and services have received special commendation at this Convention. What is wanted is that its membership may be multiplied, that its finances be wisely handled, that liberal contributions flow into its treasury. And then fully equipped, with its hands free to work, stimulated and encouraged by the confidence placed in it by the public, it will go forward and do a blessed work for the Master.

THE WAR CLOUD.

The war cloud which has for some time been hanging threateningly over Europe, has at length burst, and hostilities have actually broken out. Turkey is again the occasion and to be the scene of conflict. At one time there appeared to be imminent danger of at least two of the great powers being drawn into the struggle, and that would in all probability before long have involved others. In that case what the end might have been no one could have ventured to foretell. There could not but have been a vast expenditure of means, and destruction of human life which one shudders at contemplating. Fortunately, affairs have taken such a change as to warrant the hope that the struggle may be confined to Turkey and her tributary, but rebellious provinces. Where, however, the complications are so many and delicate, and the mutual jealousies of rival and closely contiguous powers are so intense and susceptible, it is impossible to say how long, or whether it will be possible for neighbouring nations to look on without taking part. It is certainly most earnestly to be hoped that a great European war shall not now or may never again arise. Though the seat of war is so distant from ourselves, the contest cannot but excite interest everywhere. Turkey has so long held her place only by external help, and by the mutual jealousies of those who have with ill-disguised anxiety been waiting for her fall, her fate must affect the relations of several European states to so great a degree, that what that fate is to be cannot but be watched with deep interest. The manner and the object for which this disturbance of the peace of the Ottoman empire has taken place, while fortunate in the sense that it does not necessarily require the interference of other states, is unfortunate for Turkey herself. It is a struggle for political liberty of a subject people who have been goaded into rebellion by generations of oppressive exactions, who have often had to endure in numberless instances the most lawless tyranny, who have again and again been promised redress, and as often been disappointed or deceived. This has been the conduct of a government which no one can respect; its history for ages has been a dark almost monotonous record of cruelty, imbecility, and stolid inactivity, which is a blot on the pages of modern European history, and which everybody would be glad to see come to an end, if anything better would take its place. The revolted provinces must on that ground accordingly receive the sympathy of all who desire to see human freedom extended, rather than Turkey upheld in a moribund condition. It is also a struggle for religious liberty against a fanatical, superstitious and crumbling system of idolatry, and must on that ground also enlist the sympathy and good wishes of all who would be glad to see the area of Mohammedanism circumscribed by being driven out of Europe. For both these reasons were it not for national jealousies as to who shall get the lion's share of the doomed country, the Servians and allied tributaries of the Porte would receive prompt material aid to put an end to Turkey. We have no sympathy with Turkey in this struggle, and she deserves none. She occupies one of the fairest portions of Europe, and does so only to cast a blight upon it politically, intellectually, and religiously. Its condition is hopelessly bad, and hardly any change can take place that will not be for the better. No European State or States could possess its territory and resources, and make so little or so bad a use of them. It is, and must continue to be, a chronic source of danger and trouble in Europe, and although the end may not be yet, still the revolt of the Servians must hasten the last day of Turkey's hold west of the Bosphorous, for success or defeat must both tend to weaken and destroy her power. We shall watch this struggle with interest, and only hope that by the complete success of the insurrection, the day may be more speedily ushered in which shall see the end of Turkish misrule and Mohammedan fanaticism, cruelty and superstition, in what might, in other hands, be the garden of Europe.

A CENTURY OF NATIONAL LIFE.

Our neighbors have been celebrating their hundredth year of national existence with all manner of jubilation, with every possible demonstration of national pride and gladness. Who can blame them? When the hundredth Dominion Day shall come will not Canadians celebrate it with right good will, and we shall be able to do it with as good reason. As a neighboring nation and a kindred people, we shall heartily express our good wishes for the future of the American Republic. How manifold, how prolific their national life has been; what a splendid success in very many respects! What a change in the extent of territory occupied to day and one hundred years ago. From a comparatively narrow strip along the Atlantic coast their broad and far domain stretches across the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Florida on the South to Maine and Oregon on the north. What change too in the face of the country. From being an almost unbroken wilderness, the abodes of industry, comfort and civilization are to be found more or less thickly scattered in every part of it. What a wonderful increase in population. What a difference in their condition, pursuits, and prospects! Science, arts, literature, education, and religion have all kept pace, it must be confessed, upon the whole, with material advance and prosperity. It cannot but gladden the heart of every lover of his kind, to behold what man under the inspiring and stimulating influence of freedom can accomplish. With what majestic steps especially has religious influence marched over and taken possession of the land. Considering all the natural obstacles and drawbacks of a country just opening up to settlement, of a people drawn often from the dregs of every nation under heaven, together with much that is best, the rapid spread of religious bodies, their power, organization, equipment, and work abroad must be considered as one of the marvels in the history of the church of Christ. Contrast the United States and Canada with Mexico and South America, and what an eloquent, convincing, practical demonstration do we behold of the superiority of Protestantism over Catholicism as a power to quicken and bless a nation. This is now manifestly felt over the whole continent, and must become more and more so as time advances.

How many new and interesting relations have been established with other states on this continent, and especially with Canada, since one hundred years ago. The remark is still more true of the relations with European nations, and above all with the parent state, the fruitful mother of so many daughters in every quarter of the globe. How greatly has the almost incredible change in the means of communication contributed to this end. How changed is the state of feeling now between the Mother Country and what it was a century ago, and that change is all for the better. So many, so cordial and strong, so rapidly increasing, and so indissoluble are the ties that now bind Great Britain, and through her, her colonies, at least all adjoining ones to the United States, that war between them is only contemplated as one of the most distant possibilities, and the prospect now bids fair, so far as human eye can see, for a millennium of peace. If this should be so, what the next hundred years shall show of progress, of united and resistless power for good to all the nations, from the English speaking population of the globe, baffles the boldest imagination to foretell. The progress of the United States in the past may well encourage Canadians. If we have not a country possessing in every respect advantages equally great, we are free from disadvantages of some kinds from which they suffer. We may well take a lesson from them of patriotic pride in the land we live in, in its civil, political, educational, and religious institutions. They are equally worthy of it, and we naturally think even more so, with anything to be found across the line. Let us who as a Confederation are starting almost a century later in the race, watch our older sister's progress, only that we may avoid mistakes and failures she has made; let us be warned by misfortunes that have befallen her. Let every man do his duty, and going on increasing in strength, in wisdom, in experience, rebuking dishonesty in high places, honouring and rewarding with grateful appreciation, integrity, and uprightness in the servants of the state; holding fast by all that specially distinguishes us as a Christian country, the bible, the Sabbath, religious education of the young, when our centennial year comes we shall have fewer reasons for national humiliation, and more for honest pride and jubilant exultation.

The total movement in the European Army in India is extending month by month. By the returns for May this year, it seems that there are 7,400 non-commissioned officers and men of the service on the rolls of the total abstinence societies. This movement is almost entirely the fruit of the unwearied energy and devotion of Rev. Mr. Gregson, of Agra, the Honorary Secretary of the Soldiers' Total Abstinence Association of India.