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## The Canada Presbyterian

O. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 1895.

THE blue ribbon for "hearing candidates" must be given to a New York congregation that has just finished hearing over two hundred.

IT may not be complimentary to Ontario or to the Commons of Canada but all the same it is a fact that in this part of the Dominion the Hyams trial eclipsed the House of Commons for fourteen days.

A PRESS report says that one of the "most graceful, vigorous and happily conceived speeches," delivered on seminary control in the American Assembly was made by Dr. F. C. Montford, of the *Herald and Presbyter*. Congratulations Brother Montford!

PROPHECYING is as unsatisfactory a kind of exercise in business as it is in Church affairs. For years it has been predicted that no living man would ever see wheat a dollar a bushel. The prediction has been made many a time within the last three months. Wheat is over a dollar a bushel now.

ONE of "Ian Maclaren's" strong points as a literary artist is his ability to sketch a real woman. There are two typical women in the Bonnie Brier Bush—Mrs. Macfadyen and Marget Howe. Were one of the Methodist persuasion one might be tempted to say, "Sister, which of these women do you take for your model?"

IN a statement recently published the Methodist missionaries in Japan say that some of the differences "had their origin almost entirely in petty jealousies." Nine-tenths of the difficulties that arise in Churches—the Presbyterian included—originate in exactly the same source. The tap-root of many a Church "case" is the ambition, jealousy or hate of two or three men or perhaps of one or two women.

IT is a tribute to the excellence and thoroughness of Canadian training that so many of those who passed through our colleges here have been honored, alike at home and abroad. The Rev. C. A. Webster, B.A., M.D., who has, for some time, been our missionary at Haifa to the Jews, has just been appointed to a professorship in the medical college at Beirut, Syria, is a graduate of Toronto University, Knox College, and the Toronto School of Medicine. The college, which has been established thirty years, is the most important and progressive of Eastern educational institutions. It is attended by 300 students, and has a faculty of 20.

THE school trouble is by no mean confined to Manitoba. The *Christian Leader* says:

Dread of the denominationalism which Catholics and Anglicans desire has made the Presbyterian Assembly of the Northern Church in New Zealand hesitate to ask for Bible reading in the public schools, while the Congregational Union distinctly state that they oppose any interference with the secular system in fear of the Episcopalian Churches making education sectarian.

THE Rev. James Anderson, at present supplying Keady, should have been credited as the writer of the very interesting article in our issue of the 22nd ult., on the "Bible Institute," Chicago. It is possible that Mr. Anderson's being so highly satisfied with his brief attendance at that Institute may lead others of our ministers to take a short session of study at it or some similar institution.

LORD ROSEBERY is again to the front in racing matters, having won the Derby the second time. Of course there will be the usual amount of adverse criticism; but it should be strictly confined to the British Isles. No other country in the world can afford to throw stones at British Statesmen. Rosebery is a splendid man in spite of his weakness for fast horses. It would be well for some other countries we know if their public men had no greater failings than Rosebery's.

THE General Committee in London charged with making arrangements for the approaching General Assembly, met lately, a large number being present. Present indication points to the likelihood of a very large attendance at the Assembly, possibly the largest there has ever been. Presbyterians in London are proverbially hospitable, and every thing is being done to make this meeting one of the pleasantest in every way that has yet been held. We may well hope that the discussions shall be more moderate than the heat of this heated term.

IN another column is an advertisement for a missionary for the Cariboo District, in British Columbia. Last summer this district was explored, and the report showed that there were over 3,000 whites north of the Thompson River, and that a number more were likely to go in this summer to engage in mining and ranching. It seems that none of the young men graduating from our colleges this spring would accept an appointment there, and hence, a missionary is advertised for. With so many men offering for the foreign field, who cannot be sent, there should be no difficulty in securing a suitable missionary for this field, and we shall be disappointed if Dr. Robertson has not a troop of applicants.

TWO jubilees are looming in sight, the one in Guelph of the Rev. Dr. Wardrope as a minister of which more anon, the other that of Knox Church, Galt. The latter will be entered upon on Sabbath, the 9th inst., with three services for worship, at which the Revs. Dr. J. R. Smith, George Leslie Mackay, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly and Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., will preach. Monday will be taken up with Canadian Presbyterianism when the above-named gentlemen with others well-known in the Church will take part. "Fifty Years of Blessing" will be the subject for Tuesday and the services will be of a kind more local and individual to Knox Church itself, as will also be the case on Wednesday, when "The Church at Home" will be the topic.

THE *Christian Work* makes the sensible and truthful remark that the churches do not want organic union, and that there is no use in talking about it until they do, and adds:

This being so, it would seem to be better to devote time and effort to promote Christian comity rather than to squander both on an endeavor which is sure to be futile, which has not the strength of a rope of sand, whose aspirations are born of sentiments, but which are not the result of any well considered mature thought.

That is right. Let the Churches stop spending time and effort on organic union schemes that the people do not want; let each Church go on with its own work and cultivate godliness rather than union sentiment. The nearer we come to Christ the nearer we will come to one another. The more we love Christ the more we will love one another. If organic or even Federal Union ever comes it will come not by tinkering at a basis of union, but by increased spiritual life.

QUOTING from "Knoxonian" on Canadian preachers as compared with those of other countries, in which he says "they do not need to take a back seat in any company," the *Hamilton Times* says: "Good for 'Knoxonian'! We have been just a little tired hearing fulsome praise of foreign hills and foreign doctors of divinity by men who show too little appreciation of home talent. 'Knoxonian' says what a good many have felt, but which some, hardly trusting their judgment, hesitated to put into words. The avidity with which some people swallow the trash that passes for pulpit eloquence because it happens to be uttered by a foreigner with a big name, would be amusing if it was not so pitiful. Canada has no lack of good preachers, though it has few superior to 'Knoxonian.'"

THE article which we reprinted last week in *Pastor and People* from the *Chicago Advance* on "Dr. Denney on the Christian Verities," by the Rev. James Orr, D.D., Professor in the Theological Hall, of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, would be read with much interest. Dr. Orr's well-known ability led to his being asked to give a course of lectures in the University of Chicago, which he also repeated in Manitoba College, Winnipeg, and of which, on Dr. Orr's leaving, Rev. Principal King spoke in terms most highly complimentary. Dr. Orr is specially qualified to speak of Dr. Denney's work, and his article would be read with the greater interest both because of the book which Dr. Denney has just published, and of his name being proposed as a successor in Knox College to the late Professor Thompson.

THE Niagara Bible Conference, is now a well-known and much-prized annual gathering for one of the most important purposes which can occupy man's time or attention, the study of the sacred Scriptures. The nineteenth annual conference will be held at Niagara-on-the-Lake from June 26th to July 2nd. Topics and portions of Scripture have been assigned to pastors, teachers and evangelists well-known to the Conference. The following are some of the topics to be considered: The Integrity of the Scriptures, the Uses of the Word, the Spirituality of the Holy Law, Reconciliation, Adoption, the Work of the Holy Spirit, the Resurrection of Christ, What is the Gospel, the Mysteries of the N. T., the Types of Worship in the O. T., the Coming of Israel's Messiah, Future Prophetic Epochs, and other subjects pertaining to Doctrine, Life and Service.

THE proceedings of the Canadian House of Commons attract little attention at the present time. There is no magnetic leader of men like Sir John Macdonald at the helm. The N. P. is thoroughly threshed out. There is no sensation scandal in the air. The time of the parliament is nearly up. There is no ministerial crises. The weather is hot. These and other reasons make the interest in parliamentary proceedings languid and far from general. Perhaps there are deeper reasons. It may be that party ties are weakening. Possibly the people will never again rally around leaders as they used to rally around Joseph Howe, Sir John Macdonald, George Brown and Alexander Mackenzie. The day of the great political leader may be going and the day of the practical business politician, whose strength is in the caucus, is, perhaps, coming. The change, if it is coming, may not be an improvement.

THE *Presbyterian Observer* says:—

Prayer in the public schools is now very rarely heard; in some States it has wholly ceased. But there are not a few who see, and are ready to acknowledge that in the exclusion of the Bible and of prayer from the schools a moral element of much value has been lost. Perhaps its recovery is now an impossibility, but some efforts in this direction have been made at various points. The other day a Committee of Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen met in Ansonia, Conn., to confer on the subject, and the committee agreed that prayer shall be made, and that the Lord's Prayer as found in the Gospel of Matthew shall be the form of prayer used.

If professional agitators, demagogic politicians and men who are Protestants or Catholics for what they can make out of their religion could be compelled to keep their hands off, scripture selections and a form of prayer satisfactory to all parties except infidels could easily be agreed upon in any Province of Canada except perhaps Quebec. If every trace of religion is "obliterated" from the schools of Canada the people will have none but