British American Presbyterlan, 102 BAY STHEET, TORONTO.

FOR THRMS, STC., LEE EIGHTH PAGE. C. SLACKETT ROBINSON Editor and Proprietor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

All communications a cust beaccompanied by the writers name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

Articles not accepted will be returned, if, at the time they are sert, at request is ruste to that effect, and sufficient restays stamps are enclosed. Linuaripts not as accompanied will not be preserved, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be compiled with.

OUR GENERAL AGENTS.

MR. YM SFLDY, General Advortising and Subscription Agent, will visit Brantford, Galt, Quelph, etc., in the cearse of this and following wooks.

Ais. CHARLES NICOL, General Agent for the PRESENTEALAN, is now in Westers Ontario pushing the interests of this journal. We commend him to the best offices of initiators and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1877.

Duning the past few weeks the Synod of the Scottish United Presbyterian Church has held its sessions in Edinburgh. The Assemblies of the Established and Free Churches have likewise been sitting in the Scottish metropolis. The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Iroland is also now an event of the past.

REV. DR. ORMISTON Sailed on Saturday week from New York for Scotland. Many friends were assembled on the pier of the Anchor Line, to watch the steamer as she glided away on her home-bound voyage, and to wave the Doctor a kindly good-bye. Dr. Ormiston is one of the delegates to the Presbyterian Council to be held in Edinburgh in July.

In the Christian at Work of last week its editor, Rev. Dr. Taylor, argues that special fees should be paid to ministers for attending the funerals of those who are outside of their congregations. It is surprising to find so many families neglecting the ordinances of religion in health, and when death visits them making a demand upon the services of clergymen.

Ar the meeting of the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church, it was reported that nearly the half of the fund which is being raised as a memorial of the union of the Presbyterian Churches in England had already been subscribed. When the whole is subscribed the fund will amount to £250,000 sterling. It is in truth a noble expression of gratitude to God for the blessings of union.

THE Assembly of the Canada Presbyter. ian Church will meet in Halifax on 18th June. This year the Assembly will be greatly reduced in size from that of the last two years. A great deal of important busi. ness falls to be transacted. The public are looking forward with much anxiety to the settlement of the Macdonnell case. The proceedings as a whole will be watched with intense eagerness. The various reports of the Boards of Assembly will prove satisfactory and encouraging. With their debts much reduced or wiped out, there is a promising prospect for the future of our Church.

Ir is to be hoped that all, or at least nearly all, the delegates appointed to the General Assembly from this Province will be "in the City of Halifax, and within St. Matthew's Church there, on the second Wednesday of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven years, at past seven o'clock p.m.," or as soon thereafter as possible. The distance is great; but in these days of complete railway and steamboat communication and speedy travel, the question of distance is scarcely to be taken into account. A little over fortyeight hours' travel by the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial railways will accomplish the distance from Toronto to Halifax; and the days have not long passed away when a delegate would spend a much longer time than that in going to a meeting of Synod within the limits of his own province. The question of expense is also much diminished in importance by the kindness of the railway and steamboat companies in agreeing to convey delegates at greatly reduced fares. Information as to the different rontes, and other matters, will be obtained by referring to Dr. Reid's advertisement in another column. Those who go by steamer from Hamilton, Toronto, or any of the other lake ports will take more time than those who go by rail; but this disadvantage will be more than compensated by the benefit and enjoyment to be derived from the balmy air and beautiful scenery of lake and river, and the refreshing breezes of the gulf. The trip will undoubtedly be conducive to the health and strength of many of our hard-working ministers; and they will return to their charges all the better prepared to cultivate their own fields of labor. with their bodies refreshed and invigorated by the salt sea-breeze, and their minds in sympathy with all the plans and operations of the Church to which they belong.

PRESS VS. PULPIT.

Our neighbour the Globe on Friday last treated its readers to an editorial on the "Pulpit-its places and its prizes." Of course, the subject was considered with the masterly and logical ability for which our co-temporary is distinguished. In order to show this, let us for a moment follow the article in detail. The first paragraph speaks of the ablest and most popular preachers being selected for the pulpits of leading city churches. The second paragraph details the process by which such gifted men are drained from country parishes, and then suddenly flies off like a tangent to tell congregations they must pay handsomely for good ministers, and to show that preachers are a poor, overwrought, and degressed class, who--if they have the ability-cannot find time to write sermons worthy of the age. The third paragraph describes the wanin, of the pulpit, and accounts for it by the surprior education of the laity, the exhaustive treatment of 10. ligious subjects by the press of our day, and by the fact that leading and singularly successful pulpit divines lay aside the pastoral role and adopt that of the journalist. Then the paragraph winds up with a grand flourish about every age being instructed in its own method, and the astounding assertion is made that if Shakespeare had lived in our time, he would have written novels like Dickens and Scott. The article in question is the rarest piece

of logic we ever remember to have come across. We are accustomed to sit at the feet of our Gamaliel the Globe, and listen with unquestioning faith to all it has to say on every subject. But we are forced to ask ourselves over and over again, what is the meaning of all this? The questions come fast and thick upon us as we recall the article. Is it true that the best preachers are to be found in cities? Is it the case that there is a great dearth of men of marked ability? Can it be possible that the pulpit is waning? Are the laity every. where abreast of the clergy? Is the office of the ministry intended, as is implied, to furnish the educated classes with literary pabulum? Is it so that the day for the ordinary sermon is passing away? Is it credible that all our great preachers are becoming editors? And as a matter of curiosity we should like to know on what ground it is stated that Shakespeare in our day would not have written dramas? If so, why are his dramas so popular with us? Are not the writings of Scott and others dramas? Is the writer in the Globe certain that Shakespeare would not in our day have expended his genius in sermon writing, rather than in the creation of novels? That we are forced to put so many questions, will show the wonderful character of the editorial before us. For variety, and dovetailing, and going off the rails and dealing with every thing saving "the pulpit-its place and its prizes," it is the most remarkable editorial we ever read. Seriously, if this sort of writing on preachers is to be tolerated, it will be perfectly fair for ministers to retaliate upon editors, and hold their articles up to ridicule. Indeed, the long suffering patience of the clergy has often surprised us. Would any other profession stand the lecturing and badgering they are accustomed to receive from the press? It is a sign of the grace that is given them that they take their castigations so meekly, and never even give a hint of the weak trash that is served to the public in the name of editorials. It would be edifying to watch how an editor would feel and act, if some misguided clergyman were taking his article to the pulpit and reading it as a specimen of logic and

literary taste. The article in question demands a reply, and we will give it. It is not true that the pulpit is waning. On the contrary, we believe that in no previous age has it wielded a greater influence. At no period has it possessed a greater number and variety of able and learned men. At the present moment, what a galaxy there is of names of men who are earnest and eloquent preachers of the Gospel. It would take a column of this paper to mention them one by one. But that, valuable as it is, is less pertinent than the statement which we boldly make, that never in the history of the Church was there such an efficient, scholarly, and earnest working clergy as in our day. Were the strictures of the Globe correct, it would follow that people stay at home on Sundays and read their newspapers, that the churches are in the condition which provoked Sydney Smith in reading his text to emphasize the third word, "Oh that men would praise the Lord;" it would follow that congregations, as they are small and mean in number are doing little or nothing in works of benevolence and mercy. On the contrary, it is borne in upon us to say that at no time, generally speaking, were there such congregations as in our day, and that at no time were churches more efficiently carrying on the special work which the Lord gave them to do. In this connection we entirely dissent from the statement that the ablest ministers are only to be found in cities. The city

They are prepared in rural charges for the pscullar work of city churches. Chalmers, Guthrie, Macleod, Caird, Taylor, Bescher, Hall, and a host of others we could name, commenced their ministry in obscure parishes. But more than this, it has been our experience in the country to listen to sermons that would have been a credit to city rulpits; and from our personal knowledge of the ministry in Canada, we feel safe in asserting that rural pastors are in no way inferior to their city brethren, and that as a rule they are able from the advantages they enjoy to preach discourses that are equal to the average of metropolitan pulpits. Again, we differ entirely from the article

as to the reasons it gives for its lugubrious conclusion that the pulpit is waning. The education of the laity is creating a demand for able and scholarly preaching. Nay, it is creating this kind of preaching. In proof of this we have only to point to the many able sermons which it is our privilege to publish from time to time. Let the reader observe that such discourses for the most part come from the country. But the criticism of the Globe is at fault, when we consider that the laity is a mixed body. It is not all learned and cultured. As a rule, the laity is not able to appreciate "the finished exposition of a subject to be found in some periodical or some volume of sermons." Even though one class of the people were all that the fond imagination of the Globe conjures up, are there no longer amongst us the ignorant, the sinful, the wretched, the poor and suffering, who require the proclamation of the Gospel, as much as they did in any other age or generation? Who are the powerful preachers of the day? Not the authors of fluished expositions certainly. They are the men who are in dead carnest in the great work of winning souls. We maintain that the day for the ordinary sermon instead of passing away, has rather come. There is a demand for simplicity and directness which our preachers are wisely setting themselves

to supply. Then, lastly, let us say a word as to those divines who lay aside the pastoral role and adopt that of the journalist. To our knowledge, there are three classes of clergymen who are journalists. First, those who find the press more congenial than the pulpit. For many reasons the names of such are legion. Secondly, ministers who by reason of sickness or other calamity, can no longer occupy the pulpit. Dr. Guthrie was an eminent example of this, and it was well that he found in the press a means of carrying on his noble work as a preacher of the Truth. But thirdly, by far the largest number of ministers who edit, and write, and publish volumes are those who at the same time are actively carrying on the work of the ministry. There is not a great name belonging to the pulpit of the present day, but who is connected in some way or other with literature. And it is but natural that it should be so, for a reason the very opposite of that which the Globe gives, viz., that sermons are in general so excellent and finished that besides being suitable for dolivery, they constitute admirable contributions to the literature of the day.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

On Tuesday, May 15th, and Thursday, May 17th, respectively, Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies were organized at Trenton and Gananoque, auxillary to the Kingston Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, which is intended to become a Presbyterial Society, having Kingston centre. The Trenton ladies formed at the same time a "Ladies' Society" in connection with the Church at Trenton, having the same members and office-bearers Other congregations might follow this good example. The Home and Foreign interests need not conflict, as some seem to fear. One will be found to stimulate the other, and hearts that are opened to work for either will soon desire to help both. It is a profound truth which is expressed in Trench's poem:

"Make channels for the streams of love, Where they may broadly run, For leve has everflowing streams To fill them every one.

"But if at any time we fail Such channels to provide The very founts of love for us Will soon be parched and dried."

THE Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of the United States have just concluded their meetings-that of the Northern Church in the City of Chicago, and that of the Southern Church at New Orleans. The former already finds itself far too bulky to meet even in the garden city of the West. The sermon of the retire ing Moderator of the former Assembly, Rev Dr. Van Dyke, on the person and sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ, was worthy of the occasion and of the man. The Assembly adjourned every day to attend the noon meeting in Farwell Hall. The revival work inaugurated in Chicago by Moody and Sankey is giving evidence of ministers as a rule come from the country. much spiritual fruit.

DR. HANNA ON RELIGIOUS THOUGHT IN SCOTLAND.

In a collection of the "Letters of Thomas Erskine of Linlathen," edited by the Rov. Dr. Hanna, which has just appeared, the biographer of Dr. Chalmers thus refers to the changes in religious thought which bare taken place in Scotland during the last forty-seven years. After tracing the course of the circumstances which led to the deposition of the Rev. John McLecd Campboll and the Rev. A. J. Scatt, Dr. Hanna goes on to say:-

"Rigidly adhering to the whole doctrine of the Westminster Confession, and imper-stively demanding a like adherence on the part of all office-bearers of the Church, the General Assembly of 1831 had apparently no alternative but to eject Mr. Campbell and Mr. Scott. Nearly half a contury has passed since then, and it is believed that the Church now would eject neither the one nor the other. If so, there must have come over her some modification either of her cwn belief in the whole doctrine of the Confession on a first dame of the company of the company of the confession on a first dame of the confession of the confes her own belief in the whole dootrine of the Confession, or of her demand for an entire conformity therewith. To many that Confession may not now appear as full and perfect a representation of Divine truth as it did to the men of a bygone generation. To many it may appear as setting forth but one side or aspect of that truth. To meny it may appear as too wide in its range, too one side or aspect of that truth. To many it may appear as too wide in its range, too minute in its details, to warrant the requirement of subscription to all its articles. To many these articles may appear to be of such different relative worth and importance that unbelief of some of them ought not to involve forfeiture of office. ought not to involve forfeiture of office However in these respects it may be, it is certain that the Church is not standing now on the ground she occupied forty-seven years ago, and the time may come ere long for her to acknowledge and vindicate the change in her position."

IN MEMORIAM.

Died 'South Georgotown, County of Chateau-nay, P vince of Quebec, on the 4th day of April, facobi 'MoD. Nicholson, the beloved wife of the rener Je pastor, J. C. Muir, D.D.

She was born in Rosshire, Scotland, and together with her relatives came to this country in her youth, and dwelt at Beechridge. Thirty-six years ago she was married to Rev. J. C. Muir, then as now ministor of South Georgetown. The happy combination of natural gifts and gracious attainments which her character exhibited soon endeared her to the numerous families of her husband's flock, and to as many outside the congregation as were privileged to make her acquaintance, and these sentiments of esteem continued to strengthen to the last, and when the end came, deep was the grief of the whole Christian community. The sorrow of the manse was shared at every fireside, for every family felt that it had lost a friend. Of course, it is only Dr. Muir and the large family of sons and daughters whom she left behind that know the full extent of that Isss-a loss all the heavier that it came somewhat suddenly and unexpectedly. The writer of this notice spent the evening with the family fifteen days before she died. Although far from well, she presided with her wonted grace at the evening meal, and took part in the conversation in the parlour. In a day or two she was too weak to leave her room, and in a fortnight she was no more. We will not say she died. For such as she there is no death. Her levely image is embalmed in the hearts of living friends, and her spirit lives before the throne of God. We shall not soon see her like again. But we will not repine. As it was in love to us that God left so long in our midst one who reflected so sweetly the image of Jesus, so it was in love to us as well as to herself that he removed her at last. Both in her life and death we will seek to acknowledge through this vale of tears.

"O, though oft depressed and lonely, All my fears are laid aside, If I but remember only

Such as those have lived and died." Mrs. Muir had been an office-bearer of the South Georgetown and English Rivor Woman's Missionary Society. At its meeting the Society having its attention called to her death, and the death of Mrs. Kinghorn, another of its office bearers, ordered the following notice to be engrossed in the minutes:-

"The Georgetown and English River Woman's Missionary Society desires to express its deep sense of the heavy loss it has sustained in the removal by death of two of its most density was desired. its most devoted members, Mrs. Dr. Muir and Mrs. Kinghorn. From the commence-ment of the Society they manifested the most lively interest in its affairs, and contributed largely to the measure of success which has attended its labours. In the sudden and unexpected removal of these mothers in Israel, the Society would recognize the success of the nize a voice addressed to every member, calling to increased activity and a more thorough consecration to the Master's work."—Com.

THE Treasurer of the Ladies' Board of French Evangelization, Montreal, acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of \$25 from Colonel and Lieutenant General Sir David Russell, C.B., London, England, per Mrs. Redpath; also, in response to circulars, \$25 from the Missionary Association of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, per Mrs. not being on the wane, and is yielding Mowat; \$25 per Mrs. Garland, Ottawa; and \$85 per Mrs. Armstrong, Guelph.

BRANTFORD YOUNG LADIES' COLLEGE.

We understand that the present year of our college in Brantford closes on the 20th June. On Sabbath evening the 24th, a sermon to the graduates will be preached by Dr. Cochrane. On Monday evening the closing concert for the year will be held in Wickliffe Hall, and on Tuesday evening the 20th, the graduating exercises will take place in Zlon Church. Essays will be read by the graduates-prizes and medals presented-and diplomas to the graduating class. Addresses are expected on the occasion from the Rev. Messre. Thompson of Sarnia, Grant of Ingersoll, and Stephenson of Detroit; the Hon. George Brown, Hon. A. S. Hardy, M.P.P., Wm. Paterson, Esq., M.P., and others. Parties from a distance intending to be present will please communicate with Dr. Kemp the Principal of the college, who will forward programmes and tickets of admission free.

Ministers and Church's.

[Wo urgently solicit from Presbytery arks and our readers generally, items for this ceptriment of our paper, so as to make it a general epiteme of all local church news.]

THE Rev. F. McCuaig, of Clinton, has been cordially invited to the pastorate of Chalmers' Church, Kingston, vacant since the death of the late Rov. Patrick Gray. A local paper says that " the meeting at which Mr. McCuaig's name was brought before the congregation, was a very harmonious one, and the Church is to be congratulated on having made such a choice."

THE congregation of Union Church. Brucefield, was last week favoured with a visit and an eloquent address on Foreign Mission Work from Rev. Professor Mc-Laren, after which a branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized. Mrs. T. Thomson, President; Mrs. John Kitchen, Secretary; and Mrs. John Lant, Treasurer. This congregation also after having built and paid for a brick church in which they have now been worshipping for a short time, have taken steps to erect a new brick manse for their pastor, Rev. Thos. Thomson, at a cost of nearly \$2,000.

Ar a tea-meeting held at Claude, on the evening of the 24th ult., Rev. R. M. Croll was presented with a new buggy for himself and a sewing machine for Mrs. Oroll. In making the presentation an address was read expressing the increasing esteem and affection of the congregation for their pastor, their appreciation of his ability and fidelity, their satisfaction with the highly prosperous condition of the Sabbath School as the result of his untiring efforts in the interests of the young, and their thanks for the bold, yet moderate spirit in which he had advocated the cause of temperance, in the pulpit, on the platform, and through the press. Mr. Croll replied briefly on his own behalf and on behalf of Mrs. Croll. The amount realized by the soirce was \$60.

A MOST successful tea-meeting was held on the Queen's Birth-day in connection with the second anniversary of the congregation at Woodbridge. More that 850 persons sat down at the tables. The chair was afterwards taken by the pastor, Rev. R. Pettigrew, who congratulated the congregation on their progress, indicated by their being in a position to build a new church, which he hoped would be opened before the end of November. Excellent addresses were delivered by Mr. Geo. Wallace B.A., (High School, Weston), Rev. Mr. Amos, (Aurora), Smith, Nicol, Burns and Mitchell, (Central Church, Toronto). The God's goodness to ourselves, and from these Choir of Knox Church, Toronto, under impressive manifestations of Divine good- their leader, Mr. McRae, with Miss Esson ss we will endeavour to reap courage and as organist, rendered a number of anthems strength and joy as we journey onwards in a manner highly appreciated by all who were present.

On Sabbath last, the congregation of Free St. John's, Walkerton, held their first anniversary services in their new church. The forencon and afternoon services of worship were led in a very able and effective way by the Rev. Dr. James, of Knox Church, Hamilton. The evening service was conducted by the Rev. R. C. Moffat, the pastor of the church. On Monday evening a social re-union was held, enlivened by excellent music tendered by the chair, and short addresses by the Rev. Dr. Bell and the Rev. Mr. Tindall. Dr. James gave a very excellent lecture upon Janet Hamilton, the blind poetess of Langloan. The large audience listoned to the eloquent sketch of her life so tenderly and effectively drawn by Dr. James, with the deepest interest. And as the lecturer rendered in his own masterly and eloquent way selection after selection from her poems, the effect was most impressive. It was a noble lecture to tell upon heart and life. We most heartily congratulate the congregation and its minister in the success of their first anniversary services in their beautiful new

THE first anniversary of the opening of the very elegant and commodicus church in Claremont was held on Sabbath last, when the Rev. Mr. Inglis of Toronto discoursed in the forencon on "the glorious gospel of Christ," setting forth the glory it possessed, revealed, and conferred. He was followed in the afternoon by the Bev.