

British American Presbyterian, 192 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE EIGHTH 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 must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

OUR GENERAL AGENT.

Mr. C. W. NICE, General Agent for the Presbyterians in Western Ontario pushing the interests of this journal.

British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1876.

The daily meetings in charge of Mr. Hammond, in Philadelphia, are largely attended.

The week of prayer, extending from Jan. 7th to 14th, will be universally observed throughout the world.

The Rev. Dr. Phin is to be nominated as moderator of the next General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland.

The Rev. L. D. Bevan and family, arrived in New York from London, on Saturday week, in response to the call of the Brick Presbyterian Church.

The labors of Messrs. Moody and Sankey the Evangelists, were concluded in Chicago on Sabbath week.

The youngsters are enjoying themselves to their heart's content. The weather supplied by their friend Santa Claus is perfect.

ANOTHER dreadful fire calamity occurred on Tuesday night, at the Convent of St. Elizabeth, near Joliette.

THE members of the Toronto Skating and Curling Rink, situated at No. 270 Adelaide Street, West, are to be congratulated on the accomplishment of their undertaking.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

There is something peculiarly interesting in looking upon the work of the year now brought to a close. Whatever may be our feelings as to the imperfections and errors that have marked our course during a certain period of time, there is the fact of the task we gave ourselves to do being now accomplished, as we sit in solitude after all the household have retired to rest, and with the feeling of a parent to a child, we turn over the leaves of this year's BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

While thus glancing back upon the past it is natural that we should forecast the future. We close this volume with a feeling both of sadness and satisfaction--of sadness because we are yet so far from accomplishing the lofty ideal of journalism we have in mind, and of satisfaction because we have done much for the interest of the church and Christianity.

Our readers will surely profit by the example we have presented in these sentences. Let them with ourselves learn from the past, and enter upon the task of the coming year with a faithful spirit, with zeal and ability, and with appreciation of the work that is required of them.

prove themselves factors of their race by discharging every duty. Let the wife and the mother begin the year asking the blessing of the Lord for her family, and doubtless in her years she shall rejoice in the sheaves which she has gathered for his glory.

To our readers, one and all, we wish a "Happy New Year." It is ours to say with John, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospers."

Ministers and Churches.

We urgently solicit from Presbytery Clerks and our readers generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general epitome of all local church news.

On Tuesday, the 12th of December, the Presbytery of Montreal met in the church at Elgin, and ordained and inducted the Rev. John Joseph Casey into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Atholstone and Elgin.

A SURPRISE party met at the house of the Rev. Mr. Baikie, pastor of the Presbyterian congregation, Port Stanley, on the evening of Wednesday, the 20th inst. About sixty of the friends, bringing with them an abundance of the necessities of life, took possession of the house, and after tea enjoyed themselves in a very pleasant manner.

THE new Presbyterian Church in the village of Sunderland was dedicated to the worship of God on Sabbath, December 24th inst. The services, morning and evening, were conducted by Dr. Caven of Knox College, and in the afternoon by Rev. J. L. Murray of Woodville.

Book Reviews.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE FOR 1877. The continued and increasing success of this periodical (now over thirty-three years old) is doubtless owing to the fact, more generally recognized every year, that it affords the most comprehensive and, all things considered, the cheapest means of keeping well informed in the best literature of the day.

In its pages are represented such eminent authors as Prof. Max Muller, Prof. Tyndal, Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Prof. Huxley, Richard A.

Proctor, Frances Power Cobbe, The Duke of Argyll, Jas. A. Froude, Mrs. Mulloch, Mrs. Oliphant, Mrs. Alexander, Miss Thackeray, Jean Ingelow, Geo. MacDonald, Wm. Black, Mathew Arnold, Henry Kingsley, W. W. Story, Auerbach, Ruskin, Carlyle, Tompkinson, Browning, and many other leaders in science, fiction, history, biography, philosophy, poetry, theology, politics, criticism and art.

It is, in short, a thorough compilation of an indispensable current literature,--indispensable because it embraces the work of the foremost writers upon all topics of living interest; and as such, its importance and convenience to every American reader can hardly be over-estimated.

The subscription price (\$8 a year,) is cheap for the amount of reading furnished; while for those desiring the cream of both home and foreign literature, the publishers make a still cheaper offer, viz.: to send, postpaid, The Living Age and either one of the American \$4 monthlies, or weeklies, a year for \$10.50.

An extra offer, also, is made to all new subscribers for 1877, viz.: to send them gratis the six numbers of 1876, containing, besides other valuable reading, the first instalments of a new and unusually powerful serial story by GEORGE MACDONALD.

The volume begins Jan. 1st, and we recommend the periodical to the attention of our readers. We know of no other way in which so much of the best work of the best minds of the time can be obtained so cheaply and conveniently as through this standard weekly magazine.

Correspondence.

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The treasury of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund greatly needs, I will not say, to be replenished, for it has never been much over half plenary, but to be much more abundantly supplied than it has been in times past.

The expenditure last year exceeded the income by upwards of \$2,000. At this date, the whole capital shall be absorbed in three years. I am not anxious that the capital should increase very much, but I am desirous both that it should not be reduced, and the grants be more liberal than they are.

If ministers had such incomes that they could accumulate money, a fund for their widows and orphans, or for aged and infirm ministers, would not be needed, unless to meet very exceptional cases, but till the Church rises to a much higher degree of spirituality, and pours more freely into the Lord's treasury, both funds must be vigorously supported.

Let me also remind the Church, that this fund has no connection with the Widows' Fund, except that the collections for both, here, in the Canada Presbyterian Church, have been taken up together.

These sending money should remember this fact, and state, when sending, whether the amount is for both, or if for one only, which it is for. Yours truly, JAMES M. TAYLOR.

OUR COLLEGES AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR,--Your last issue contains an excellent letter from Dr. Snodgrass, in which he examines a communication in the issue of the previous week respecting "Our Colleges and their Constituencies." Dr. Snodgrass confines himself, however, to the question of finances. Will you, therefore, permit me to make some remarks on the subject of the attendance of students, to which the writer of the communication refers?

There is another peculiarity in the Montreal reports which increases the difficulty. Because of its affiliation with McGill University, the Montreal College reports among its own students the students belonging to that institution who are looking forward to the ministry of our Church.

There is yet another peculiarity in the Montreal reports which renders it difficult to compare the attendance of students at the different colleges. In Montreal reports of theological students are found the names of several who, in other colleges, would be regarded as literary students.

Before closing I desire to supplement to some extent Dr. Snodgrass' remarks on college finances. The writer of the communication in your paper of the 15th inst., calculated that sixty-five and a-half cents per member will be required from the Montreal constituency for the support of Montreal College, while the western members will only need to contribute twenty cents each to the joint fund of the western colleges.