#### British American Pregbyterian, 102 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

FOR TERMS, MTC , SEE EIGHTH PAGE. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON Editor and Proprietor.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue hould 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. writers name, otherwise they will not be inserted.
Articles not accepted will be returned, if, at the
tims they are sent, at request is made to that effect,
and sufficient postage staring are enclosed. Mantracepts not as accompanied will not be preserved,
and subsequent requests for their return cannot
be complied with

#### QUR GENERAL AGENT.

Ms. Ch sures Nicol, General Agent for the PRESUTTERIAN, is now in Western Ontario pushing the interests of this journal. We commend him to its best offices of ministers and people. Any gas atmos sendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

# British American Bresbyterian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1876.

The daily meetings in charge of Mr. Hammond, in Philadelphia, are largely attended. Upwards of a thousand persons have signed the covenant expressing a hope in Christ.

The week of prayer, extending from Jan. 7th to 14th, will be universally observed throughout the world. Nearly all the cities are providing for the usual daily meetings which are held during the week, while most congregations soize the opportunity as a valuable one, of rekindling the flame of piety at the altar of devotion.

The Rev. Dr. Phin is to be nominated as moderator of the next General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, and Rev. Dr. Gould as Moderator of the Free Church Assembly. The latter news is of special interest, as Dr. Gould is the representative man of the Reformed Church which was incorporated with the Free Church at the assembly in May last.

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. They immediately took possession of the new manse in readiness for them, even to a salt-cellar. Mr. Bevan commences his labours under the happiest auspices.

THE labors of Mesers. Moody and Sankey the Evangelists, were concluded in Chicago on Sabbath week. Messrs. Whittle and Bliss will now carry on the meetings for a time. That the work of the Evangelists has been successful beyond measure is ground for gratitude to God for His mercy. In their new field of labor at Boston, we doubt not that the success which has followed these Christian workers, will be given to them, and that they will have many souls for their hire.

THE youngsters are enjoying themselves to their heart's content. The weather supplied by their friend Santa Claus is perfect, the snow being in admirable order for sleighing, and the ice for skating, with a temperature that is mild and chaiming. As Saturday night had to do duty for Christmas Eve, the streets of Toronto were unusually prowded to a late hour. Judging from the thronged condition of the candy and toy stores, Monday must have looked upon many a happy boy and girl.

Another dreadful fire calamity occurred on Tuesday night, at the Convent of St. Elizabeth, near Joliette, by which thirteen little shildten lost their lives Rollowing so closely upon the Brooklin horror, the lesson is doubly enforced as to the danger from fire, and the uncertainty of human life. Since the destruction of the Brooklin theatre fresh warnings have been given as to the traps for human lives which are built in the form of theatres and other places of amusement. It is now seen that a quiet and orderly nunuery may be quickly enveloped in flames. The number of fires, rapidly following one another, shows that flimsy structures and modern inventions for heating building are constant sources of danger.

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. The building they have been for some time erecting is almost completed. The ice which constitutes a solid and even floor, is in perfect condition, and the cas illumination which is provided, all make the building a source of attraction to skaters, and of interest to onlookers. It is by such provisions for healthful and innocent recreation, that we shall second the efforts of semperance men in their endeavors to wrest the young from the enclaving vice of drink. The members of the Rink are fortunate in the weather which enables them so soon and so complete'v illustrate the important value of the work they have almost

### 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 f. olings as to the imperfections and errora 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, it is pleasant thus to take in at a glance what we have done. What a number and variety of articles does a year of Editorship represent? Every possible subject we find has been touched upon. Here are thoughts gathered from the pages of the great theological writers of ancient and modern times; there are the poetical or philosophical effusions of our correspondents who have favored us with their contributions. In one place we find that a valuable controversy on some special topic has gone on. lu aupher there are full and ample reports of the doing of Presbyteries. Synods, and of the General Assembly Without undue assertion, we may say that this Journal during the past year, has endeavored to do full justice to every matter of interest connected with the churches or with the onward movements of Caristianity, and to have represented on its pages the talent of our Presbyterian Church. It is not asserting too much when we say that the volume for seventy-six will be found by those who have carefully filed its numbers, to be a valuable epitome of all manners of news-of the ongoings of society, of the work of the Church Boards, of conventions of Sabbath Schools, of social meetings and happy reunions amongst churches and pastors

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 sadnes 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 C ristianity. At the same time, in entering upon the labors of another year we promise ourselves to do our very ut most to make the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBY-TERIAN worthy of the noble church and cause it represents. It will be our endeavor, as it is our ambition, to serve up a goodly fare to our readers. Our aim will be to please and instruct the young with lively and entertaining stories that shall enforce the Divine lessons of wisdom and truth, to furnish solid matter to the learned and thoughtful, to enliven our columns with interesting discussions, with the views of the churches, and with the work of the Sabbath School, to give the best selections from the distinguished authors of the past and the present, to enrich the Poet's Corner with the effusions of original talent or with quotations from works of recognized merit. It further enters into our plan to treat in well written Editorials of all the pressing questions of the day, and to do our best in the discussion of the great underlying principles of church polity and of church work. It is delightful thus to ex-cogitate our ideal of journalism-to fill our mind with the thought of what we may accomplish for Truth and for God. But how much more pleasant it is to dwell upon the task before us, when we think that our ideal may be actual through honest effort, invincible courage, and earnest determination to do our duty. If spared to turn over the pages of the volume of the coming year, we trust to be able to look upon the results with satisfaction, and to point to it as worthy of the Presbyterian Church of our Dominion. As we write these words, the feeling grows withia us, that our work is not ignoble, that we are preachers of the Truth from a higher platform than the pripit itself, and to a larger audience than can be reached by any single human voice, however powerful and eloquent in its utterance, that our calling is to take part in every philanthropical movement, and to help on the work of the Church in every department. With this overpowering sentiment within us, while we can hardly hope to be free from fault, or to be other than blame-worthy in many points, we feel we do not utter unmeaning words when we say that we shall do our

best to satisfy all our readers. Our readers will surely profit by the example we have presented in these seutences. 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. Whatever be thy calling, reader, see that you discharge its duties heartily and with sincerity of purpose. If you are a minister of the Gospel, take courage and go forward to the fulfilment of your noble mission with carnest determination. Let the Sabbath School teacher grow out of the errors of his past experience, and give himself heart and soul to his precious work. Let the merchant, and lawyer, and physician, determine, if God spare them, to see the

prove themselve factors of their race by discharg devery duty.

Let the wife and begin the year asking the blesst to Lerd for her family, and doub there years she shall rejuce in view askeaves which she has gathered to the years of their years of their years and the years of their years of their years duty.

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 presper and he in good health, even as thy soul prospers." It may be that the coming year is to be the last we shall spend upon earth, but it will be a happier year than we had anticirated, if it sees us safely in the arms of Jesus, and called to experience the higher joys of heaven.

#### Ministers and Churches.

[We urgently solicit from Presbytery Clerks and our readers generally, itoms 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 Prosbytery of Montreal met in the church at Elain, and ordained and inducted the Rev. John Joseph Casey into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Athelstane and Elgin. The Rev. Mr. Johnstone preached and presided. The Rev. Mr. Patterson addressed the minister and the Roy. J. B. Muir, the people. There was a good congregation present to witness the interesting services. Mr. Casey enters upon his field of labour under the most encouraging auspices. Three Roman Catholics have left their church, and are now regular in their attendance on the ministrations of the Rev. J. B. Mnir, Huntingdon. One of them has become a member of the congregation.

A supprise 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 necessaries of life, took possession of the house, and after tea enjoyed themselves in a very pleasant manner. During the evening a very agreeable surprise was given. After an address by Mr. Strathdee, Misses Moore and McCallum, on behalf of the congregation, presented Miss Baikie with a well filled purse as a token of their affection for her. Mr. Baikie replied for his sister, thanking them for their great kindness, assuring them that all their tokens of affection had greatly sheered him during his illness, and expressing the hope and prayer that the Great Head of the church would abundantly reward them for all the tokens of affection they had shewn him and his sister .- Cox.

THE new Presiderian 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." Able discourses were delivered by both gentleagen to large and attentive audiences. On Monday evening a very successful soirce was held. Ter was served in the Town Hall, from four till half-past six in the evening, after which the people betook themselves to the new church, where addresses were given by Mr. D. C. Mackenzio, Rev. J. McNab, Beaverion; Rev. W. Barker, Milbrook; Rev. J. Campbell, Cannington; Mr. R. E. Perritt, Sunderland; Rev. J. E. Murray, Woodville; and Rev. H. Currie, Senya. Rev. Jno. McCling, Wick, discharged the duties of chairman, which were by no means easy, as the building was filled to its utmost capacity. Sweet and pleasant music was furnished by a band of Chippawa Indians, under the leadership of C. Big-Cance. The collections on Sahhath with the proceeds of the entertainment on Monday evening amounted to \$221. The Presbyterians of Sunderland, though few in numbers, have displayed great zeal and energy in erecting a suitable house of worship which it is to be hoped will in a comparatively short time be entirely free of debt .-- Cox.

## 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. With its weekly issue, and its three and a quarter thousand large pages of reading matter a year, it is enabled to present with a freehness and satisfactory completeness attempted by no other publication, the ablest essays and reviews, the choicest serial and short stories, the most interesting sketches of travel and discovery, the best poetry, and the most valuable biographical, historical, scientific and political information from the entire body of foreign periodical literature.

In its pages are represented such emin ent authors as Prof. Max Maller, Prof. Tyndai, Rt. Hon. W. H. Giadstone, Dr. W. close of another year, that they shall [B. Carpenter, Pref. Huxley, Richard A.

Proctor, Frances Power Cobbe, The Duke d every duty. of Argyll, Jan. A. Froude, Mrs. Muloch, Mrs. Oliphaut, Mrs. Alexander, Miss Thackeray, Jean Ingelow, Geo. MacDonald, Wm. Black, Mathew Arnold, Henry Kingsley, W. W. Story, Auerbach, Ruskin, Carlyle, Tennyson, 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 imbraces the work of the foremost writers upon all topics of living interest; and as such, its importance and conveniences to every American reader can hardly be over-estimated. It has always ranked as chief among the eclectics. giving an amount of reading unapproached by any other magazine; it has absorbed its competitor " Every Saturday;" and in the multiplicity of periodicals it can hardly be dispensed with by any person or family desiring a satisfactory compendium of whatever is of immediate interest or permanent value in the literary world.

> 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. With The Living Age and one or other of our leading American monthlies; a subscriber will at small cost, be put in "command of the whole situation."

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, now appearing in The Living Age from advance

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. Published by Littell & Gav. Boston.

#### Correspondence.

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Editor British American Presuterian.

The tressury of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund greatly needs, I will not say, to be replenished, for it has never been much over half plenished, 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 auxious 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. Yet the capital must be reduced, and the grants also unless the Church awakes to a sense of her duty to-

wards her aged Ministers. If ministers had such incomes that they could accumulate money, a fand for their widows and orphans, or for aged and infirm ministers, would not be needed, unless to meet very exceptionable 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. The governments of the world make some provision for persons disabled in their service, and surely the church of God should not neglect or deal with niggard hand, with those who have expended their energies in doing her work. The largest grants made at present, are only \$250 a year. Some of those persons on the roll have no other means of subsistence; and, I a-k, is it creditable to us as a church, that the sum necessary to secure this pittance, should not be forthcoming? I am satisfied that the lack arises from want of information, and that if the members of the Church were only aware of the necessity that exists, for more liberal aid, it would not be awanting. I plead now for a larger income. I do so, not on behalf of the aged and infirm ministers alone, but on behalf of congregations, to whom some of these are trying to minister where they feel not able for the work, but because they have no means of retiring from work they love, but cannot now perform in any measure as they would like. None of those now on the roll are in charge of congregations, but some in charge of congregations would willingly give place to younger men, if they could. It would be for the advantage of such congregations, and thus of the Church as a whole, if aged and infirm men could retire from charge of congregations, and work otherwise for the Lord as he might enable

Let me also remind the Church, that this fund has no connection with the Widows' Fund, except, that the collections for both, has, in the Canada Presbyterian Church been taken up together. If money is sent in for one of these funds, the other

is sent in for one of these man, the other gets none of it. If it is sent for both, it is divided.

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

Jean McTavan.

Woodeleck, Dec. 20th, 1876.

OUR COLLEGES AND THEIR CON-STITUENCES.

Editor BRITISH AMBI .CAN PRESEYTERIAN.

Sir,-Your last issue contains an ex. cellent letter from Dr. Snodgrass, in which he examines a communication in the issue of the previous week respecting "Our Colleges and their Constituencies." Dr. Snedgrass 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? As a reason for obtaining a larger constituency for Montreal College, the writer says that he has learned from your paper that this college has seventy-one students enrolled for the present session; that although only nine years in existence, it has more students than any of the other colleges with the ex. ception of Knox; and that the number now approaches that in Knox. Seventy. one is certainly a large number-larger even than that reported by any of the other colleges last year, or than any of them probably will report for the present session. The writer, however, seems to be imperfectly acquainted with the real state of affairs. If he had seen a statement recently issued by the authorities of Montreal College, he would have learned that of the seventy-one students eleven are absentees. Even without such a distinot statement, if he had carefully examined the reports made to the Assembly by the Montreal Senate, he might have inferred that it is their practice to report absentees who have been enrolled. This, at least, seems to be the natural inference from the fact that the names of a large number of students re-appear as students of the same year for several successive sessions. This is particularly the case in regard to literary students of the first year. Now, I do not think that any of the other colleges give the names of absentees in their reports to the Assembly; and hence it is difficult to compare the attendance at Montreal College with that at any of the other Colleges.

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. Queen's reports only its own students; Knox College reports only its own theological students, and some literary students who study partly in its classes and partly in University College. It does not report about thirty others studying in the University and looking forward to the minis. try. Last year, for example, it reported forty-two theological and seventeen literary students, but reported none of about thirty others who were studying in the University, Toronto, with a view to the ministry in our church-and reported no absentees, theological or literary.

There is yet another peculiarity in the Montreal reports which cenders 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. For example, Montreal reported last year twenty-two theological students. But of these there were five who belonged to McGill College, who only took part of the work of the first theological year, but who did not complete the studies of that year, and who must, of course, if they are in attendance this year, attend as first year students. Of the remaining seventeen, iwo reported as first year students seem to have been absent, inaemuch as they were reported as having completed their first vear's studies in the previous year. It would thus appear that the number of regular theological students in attendance at Montreal last year was fifteen, at Queen's ten, and at Knox forty-two. The number of graduates of Montreal College during the nine years of its existence is thirty. During the last three years the graduates of Knox College have numbered thirty-seven.

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. He omits to state not only that Montreal College has reseived \$15,000 from the estate of the late Mr. Hall, of Peterborough, which may yield \$1,000 per annum, but that it has a special subscription for one of the theelogical professors to the extent of \$1,900 amenally. He omits also to state that the Montreal College receives a large portion of the funds contributed by the whole shursh for French Evangelization. The amount received last year is not reported; but the amount received in the previous