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The Canada Presbyterian.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 1894.

THE one thing that American visitors are sure to admire in Toronto is our quiet Sabbath.

THE trouble with President Cleveland seems to be that he is a man of honesty, courage and common sense. Professional politicians never did like that kind of a man.

AN election petition recently filed charges that the member elect was and is a member of the P. P. A. A lively cross-examination of one or two of the managers of the P. P. A. might throw some light on the inside working of the institution.

ONE of the burning questions now is, who governs the United States. Debs seemed to think he did a few days ago. Grover Cleveland is manifestly under the impression that he has something to say in the matter. Now just see if the half dozen Senators who are manipulating the tariff do not come out on the top.

SUPPOSING the Presbyterians who are advocating organic union with the Methodists, Congregationalists and several other bodies, should stop for a little and devote themselves to the duty of showing that the Presbyterian Church of the Dominion is one. By so doing they might help the Augmentation Fund. There is grim humor in advocating union with two or three other denominations when there is not union sentiment enough in our own church to help our weak congregations to keep the wolf from their pastor's door.

THE *British Weekly* touches the very nerve of the question when, commenting on the Chicago riot, it says the "best men in America are making money and have allowed the functions of government to fall into the basest hands." It sounds well enough to say that one is too busy, or too refined, or too pious to take any interest in public affairs, but that course of conduct is pretty certain to bring in the boodler and the rioters and the anarchist, and to increase the taxes. The very best men the country has should be kept at the front in public matters. If the best are not there the worst soon will be.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, the Bishop of Chester, and a number of other representative Englishmen, have come out strongly in favour of the Gothenburg system of regulating the liquor traffic in England. With certain changes, Mr. Price Hughes seems to favour the experiment. The strong point in the system is that it eliminates personal and municipal interest from the business. The man who sells and the municipality in which the sale takes place make no money out of the traffic. Whatever profits

there might be from the sale under government or municipal control, Mr. Chamberlain thinks should go into the national exchequer.

THE *Interior* has this to say about the "advertising parson":

Advertising has become a fine art; but now and then we run across a parson who could give the biggest patent medicine vendor points and beat him at his own game.

There are no doubt a few advertising parsons who can beat a patent medicine vendor at his own game, but the other extreme is common in Canada. We have a large number of ministers who might preach to much larger congregations through the press than they can ever reach with the voice, but they shrink from giving their utterances to the church papers lest they should appear to be puffing themselves. The men whose sayings are wanted are often the men who will not say anything for the editor or reporter. They materially lessen their own influence by refusing to do so.

IN a recent address to his constituents Mr. McCarthy explained the statement he made in the House of Commons in regard to secular and separate schools. He said:—

A secular school system was one from which the word of God was excluded. This was a Christian country, and it would be a scandal, he said, if there was no opportunity given to have the religion common to the whole people taught in the schools. Although there were some people in this country who did not believe in any religion, their number was small, and it would be a terrible hardship to the people generally if the word of God were the only book excluded from the schools. Surely, he said, there were in the Bible chapters on which all could agree and which would not promote sectarianism.

This is the ground taken, we believe, by a large majority of the people of Ontario; certainly it is the ground taken by a large majority of the Presbyterians of the Dominion. If the choice must be between the schools as they are in Ontario and schools with every trace of religion "obliterated" an overwhelming majority of Presbyterians would say, let them remain as they are.

A CITIZEN of the good town of Truro, N.S., asks our neighbour *Grip* to attend to the case of a man who, unfortunately, has too many representatives in this Western part of the Dominion. *Grip's* correspondent says he has a neighbour who "has a wife and seven children, who attend religious meetings, revivals, prayer-meetings etc., but almost totally neglects to provide for his family, thus leaving his wife the whole burden of providing them with food and clothing, while he largely squanders his time reading newspapers and story books. This sort of thing has been going on more or less for over twenty years, and is getting worse and worse. Another feature of the case is that he gets as much credit from merchants as possible, and never exerts himself enough to pay his bills, consequently he soon comes to the end of his tether and has to leave. He has been married about twenty-two years, and in that period has moved fourteen times. I will add that this man's wife is as good a house-keeper as any man could wish to have, a good cook, kind and economical. I write these things not out of malice (though I have not one particle of respect for this man) but for the sake of suffering female humanity." Fellows of that kind are to be found in almost every Ontario town and village. They swarm at revival meetings, push themselves upon the platform, squeeze into the enquiry meeting and are always on the look out for a chance "to speak." They have killed many a Y. M. C. A., and have led many excellent people to look upon special services with suspicion. What they need is conversion and a back seat.

TORONTO BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL.

IT has often appeared to us that such schools as those of Mr. Moody at Northfield, and in Chicago, would be of great benefit here in Ontario and in other parts of Canada were they made more accessible by being in our midst, and we have also wondered that no steps have been taken to meet this felt want and occupy this sphere of practical usefulness. We are glad now to say that steps are being taken to supply this lack in the Christian institutions of this city, by the formation of what is to be called the "Toronto Bible Training School." The prospectus lies before us of what may, and we trust will, in the blessing of God, become an important instrumentality for good to the city and country and even far beyond.

The great design of the school is the training of consecrated men and women as Sunday School workers, as pastors' assistants, and as city, home, and foreign missionaries. It is intended for those who believe they have been called of God to Christian service, and who, from age or other reasons, cannot pursue a full collegiate and theological course of study. Special provision is also made for Sunday School teachers and others who desire a better knowledge of God's Word.

A Christian school having a design of this kind must almost necessarily be, as this one is proposed to be, inter-denominational. Its instructors therefore for the year 1894-5, are to be drawn, as the mention of their names will show, from various denominations. They will be the Rev. Messrs. Wm. Steward, D.D., Elmore Harris, B.A., T. C. Des Barres, M.A., T. B. Hyde, D. McTavish, D.Sc., H. M. Parsons, D.D. and Mr. H. W. Frost of the China Inland Mission. In addition to these instructors there will be the officers naturally belonging to any organization proposing to do a work of this kind, namely, president, secretary, treasurer, a resident instructor, and in addition a general and executive council, the former composed of a large number of gentlemen taken from Toronto, Galt, Brantford, St. Catharines, Woodstock, Brockville, Kingston, Belleville, St. Thomas, whose numbers are yet to be added to, but all well known in their respective localities for their Christian character and their interest in Christian work. The full course of instruction will extend over two years, the first session beginning on the second Wednesday of September, going on till the third week in May with a vacation of ten days at Christmas. The instruction will be Biblical and practical, and will specially aim at these three great ends: A consecrated Christian life, an adequate knowledge of the Word of God, and an effective use of Holy Scripture in Christian service.

Candidates for admission to the full course of study must be recommended by their pastor, churches, or other responsible persons as possessing an approved Christian character, and giving promise of usefulness in the Lord's service. They must have acquired a fair English education, although in special cases instruction will be provided for those who are deficient in the ordinary branches. Tuition will be free, but a small fee of one dollar per term will be charged for incidental expenses of lighting and heating. All students will be expected to spend a reasonable part of their time in preaching, conducting prayer meetings and Gospel services, visiting the sick, conversing with inquirers, and other kinds of systematic Christian work.

Two comfortable Christian homes, one for young men, the other for young women, will be opened for those who may attend from outside the city of Toronto, where board and lodging may be obtained at the very moderate charge of \$3.00 per week. Early application should be made as places will be given in these homes in the order of application.

The cost of establishing such a school and home, it is expected, will be about \$4,000, of which nearly one third has been already promised, and in providing the remainder, the officers and council trust that God's children will be prompted to have fellowship with them, and that not a few Christian friends will also co-operate. The officers and council have decided not to incur any debt. They simply look to the Lord for means to carry on this great work, and they will go forward with it just as fast as the free-will offerings they receive will permit. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer, Mr. Joseph N. Shenstone, 16 Walmer Road, Toronto, or to the secretary, Mr. Wm. Ferguson, 58 Grenville Street, Toronto, from whom all further information may be obtained.

We earnestly commend to the prayers and liberality of God's people in all the evangelical churches, this endeavor to provide a much-needed kind of instruction for a class of laborers in Christ's vineyard, loudly called for in all our larger cities and towns, and certain as our country grows in population and in the number of its cities, towns and villages to be much in demand.

THE staff of instructors in the New Hebrides Training school is to be a principal and a married artisan assistant, a carpenter preferred. This is quite a new kind of college staff. To matriculate, the candidate is to be able to read in his own language and an English primer if possible. One cannot but smile, but our brethren in these islands are good, able and devoted men, and know well what they are about. We shall watch from year to year with interest for the reports of this embryo New Hebrides Mission College.