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## The Canada Presbyterian.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 1894.

IF Sir John Thompson has any sense of humour he must have felt some difficulty in controlling his risibility as he solemnly reproved the member of the deputation that gave a hint about prohibition majorities. Canadian politicians have always been far above any such weakness as looking for a majority.

THE Senate of the United States is one of those bodies in which wealth accumulates and men decay. From being one of the most dignified and accomplished bodies in the world, it has become an assemblage of millionaires, some of whom have bought their seats and would perhaps sell their votes. They haggle over the Tariff Bill for weeks while the nation bleeds at every pore.

AN Episcopalian journal across the line shows a good sense when it says that Christian union is not seriously hindered by the refusal of the Episcopalian ministers to exchange pulpits with other clergymen. Churches that have exchanged pulpits for a hundred years are no nearer union now than they were a century ago. Making a fuss over such a small matter as an occasional exchange of pulpits, shows very clearly that the churches are not ready for organic union.

CLOSING exercises at Knox College without Principal Caven, look like a meeting of the College Board without Dr. Reid. The venerable Doctor was at the Board meeting last week for something like the fiftieth time, and looked as bright as any man in the room. To the great regret of everybody, Principal Caven was detained in his home by illness. It is needless to say that the whole church hopes and prays for his speedy recovery, and we are happy to say that he is now recovering.

LIKE all Scotchmen, Lord Aberdeen likes to hear a discussion, but he is not allowed to go into the House of Commons. Like all Irishmen, Dufferin dearly loved a fight, and it is said he used to disguise himself and go into the gallery when there was a lively debate on. Would Mr. Bourinot or some other authority explain just what would break if a Governor-General should go into the Commons and listen to a debate. His Excellency need not attend when Mr. McMullen is discussing the estimates for Rideau Hall.

THE *British Weekly* closes an article on the ecclesiastical part of Lord Rosebery's Edinburgh speech by this frank declaration of faith in the Premier:—

For ourselves, we believe in the new Premier, in his principles, his integrity, his worth, as well as in those great and brilliant gifts which all men own. We believe that a glorious career is before him. He, and he only, has the power to bring together the Liberals of this country. If he will show himself

earnest and firm at the first, we shall soon see the rising of the tide which has been for some time too shallow to bear the great ships of reform.

The *Weekly* never seemed to be fond of Gladstone and never ceased to lecture him for not proceeding with the work of disestablishment in Wales and Scotland. Perhaps the Grand Old Man did move somewhat slowly on certain questions, but he moved surely. A few years hence it may be very clear that by moving slowly he made more real progress than is being made by the brilliant young peer who now holds the reins.

EVERY day we hear some one extolling "the Fathers," and praising the "good old times." In a few years the men who are now acting their parts will be gone, and two or three generations hence the present generation will be called "The Fathers." Then we shall all get justice and perhaps a little more. About the year 1950 we shall all be quoted as examples to the rising generation. Complaints are often made about the wickedness of this age. In half a century this age will be described as "the good old times." Let us be patient. Half a century hence we shall be considered good.

IT is more than time that all sensible, intelligent people should cease thinking that a man who tries to get into the ministry by a short-cut is more pious and more earnest than the student who willingly takes the college curriculum from beginning to end. It is easy to say that the short-cut man is anxious to begin the actual work. Let him show his earnestness by qualifying himself for the work he professes to love. The first business of a student is to study—not to preach. As Principal Caven said the other day, "A good student is nearly always a good man." In these days about the most cruel thing that can be done to young man is to allow him to enter the ministry without proper training. He soon finds out to his sorrow that he has made a mistake.

WHY in the name of common sense should the Mayor of Toronto be blamed for not giving an official welcome to the hotel and saloon keepers who met in Toronto last week. Equally good citizens, to say the least, meet in Toronto every week in the year and never complain because his Worship does not give them a civic welcome. A month hence the Synod of Toronto and Kingston will meet in this city. It is not probable that the Fathers and brethren will be welcomed at the station by the Mayor and corporation. It is absolutely certain that not one of them wants any such nonsense. Each June a large number of ecclesiastical meetings take place here. They never get a civic welcome and never want one. Six weeks ago the city was invaded by an army of milliners from all parts of the Province. Press men, wholesale men, and all others who were fortunate enough to come in contact with them said the ladies were "charming." No doubt they were. Giving them a civic welcome would have been a "perfectly lovely" kind of exercise for a mayor. His Worship, however, did not welcome the ladies, at least he did not do so officially. Why should he welcome the hotel keepers?

MR. THOMAS KANE, of Chicago, and a large number of other contributors to a symposium on the question whether business success can be attained on Christian principles, declare that even in Chicago it is rarely attained in any other way. Mr. Kane, however, adds:—

But honesty alone is not sufficient to insure success in anything. Honesty will not take the place of brains, nor of education, nor of tact, nor of politeness, nor of love for work for its own sake. It will not supply opportunities, will not make good trade in a panic year, will not make rich land out of poor. Neither will it compensate for bad business methods. It will not produce sickness or quarrels and thereby furnish employment for honest doctors or lawyers. It is not a cure for laziness or incompetency or extravagance.

This continent swarms with men who say they cannot succeed in business because they are honest. It is always more pleasant for a man to attribute his failure to his honesty than to his lack of brains or of industry or of tact. Honesty is made the scapegoat that has to carry many a failure. As a matter of fact, few men, if any, fail in the end on account of their honesty. An honest business man may at times be put to serious inconvenience by dishonest rivals, but as a rule the dishonest rival will go to the wall and the honest man pull through if he has business qualities to match his honesty.

## COLLEGE CLOSING.

ON Wednesday of last week took place in this city and in Montreal what is always an event of much interest, and to the students more immediately concerned one of great importance, the closing of the sessions of Knox and Montreal Theological Colleges. The attendance at the closing exercises of both was large, thus manifesting the never-failing interest felt both by the general Presbyterian public and their old alumni in our schools of the prophets. In Knox College the familiar presence and voice of Rev. Dr. Caven were much missed and general and sincere sympathy was felt and prayers offered for him that he might soon be restored to health and strength. In his absence Rev. Dr. Gregg presided, and beside him on the platform were Revs. Dr. MacLaren and Proudfoot, Parsons and Smith, of Port Hope, Prof. Thomson, Rev. Mr. Wallace, of Bloor-st. and Mr. Mortimer Clark, chairman of the College Board.

After devotional exercises, Rev. Dr. Gregg gave a brief address noticing especially the circumstance of this being the jubilee year in the history of the college, an event to be celebrated in some worthy way when the college re-opens in the fall. During the past fifty years there had graduated from the college 544 theological students who had been the means of rendering a service to the country, to the church and the cause of Christ simply incalculable. It was gratifying that in its fiftieth year the attendance has been larger and the prospects of increased attendance are brighter than ever before. The graduating class this year of fifteen was not the largest, but in the second year of theology there are 25 and in the first year 50 students, and 21 were attending the preparatory literary department; altogether there are upwards of 150 students now in or preparing for the study of theology. Reference was also made to the post-graduate course of study which had been inaugurated during the past winter and largely attended, and the question just touched upon whether it would be continued, held during the college session, or at some other time of the year. The museum, the Professor said, which had been hitherto in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition, had been greatly enriched by valuable contributions from the Rev. Dr. MacKay, of Formosa and the whole suitably arranged. He then proceeded to address the graduating class, impressing upon them the fact that, although their college studies were closed, they were only beginning what should be for them a lifetime of study and learning, the great responsibility of the work they had in view, their need of a personal experience of the saving grace and love of God, and of the endowment of the Holy Spirit to do their work, to meet its discouragements and difficulties and to sustain them in living as ministers of the gospel. This was done very impressively and earnestly. The Rev. Mr. Wallace, who had rendered, the chairman said, valuable assistance to the faculty in making up the results of the examinations, then read out the names of the successful candidates for scholarships and prizes and the standing of the students in their classes. This done, Professor Gregg handed the graduating students their diplomas, after which the Rev. Dr. Smith, of Port Hope, pronounced the benediction and the session of 1893-4 was formally closed.

In the evening a public meeting in connection with the closing of the college was held in West Church, Rev. Mr. Turnbull's, presided over by Rev. Dr. Gregg and in addition to Rev. Dr. MacLaren and Prof. R. Y. Thomson, there were on the platform the Revs. John Somerville, of Owen Sound, and J. McD. Duncan, of Tottenham. After opening the meeting, addresses were given by, first, Rev. J. McD. Duncan on the motives to Christian work, and by Rev. Mr. Somerville on "Why I am a Presbyterian." Both were carefully prepared, were profitable and interesting, and attentively listened to by an audience, which, though good, was not half of what it ought to have been on such an occasion. The meeting was closed by Rev. Dr. MacLaren pronouncing the benediction.

On the evening of the same day a large and interesting meeting was held in the Convocation Hall of Montreal Presbyterian College in connection with the close of its session. The Rev. Principal MacVicar presided, and along with him on the platform were members of the Senate, the professors and others. Rev. Dr. Wardrope conducted the devotional exercises. The presentation of prizes, scholarships and medals was then proceeded with, after which a valedictory address was read on behalf of the graduating class by Mr. D. Guthrie