

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 22, 23, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PAMETTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, March 21, 1895.

The Revised Hymnal.

AS will be seen from a brief report in this week's PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, satisfactory progress has been made in the preparation of the new Book of Praise, what still remains to be done being supplementary, and largely work of detail. The result of patient toil and much interchange of opinion has been, we are assured, an excellent selection of psalms and hymns with a setting of tunes appropriate to the words, and many of them already well-known to the people. Should this promise be realized, the labor of the Committee, carried on during the last three years, will, indeed, prove of the highest service, and will merit the warmest approbation of the church; for its value will be inestimable.

A gratifying circumstance in connection with the revision of the Hymnal, has been the constant interest manifested by a large number of the members of the church, indicating that the people realize the importance of the work. They look forward to its completion eagerly, and should the book be received with general favor, one result will, doubtless, be an awakening of interest in the service of praise. Looking to such a probability it behoves ministers to keep the importance of praise, as a part of public worship, prominently before their congregations and so be prepared for a rich return.

A praiseworthy effort is being made to secure a common Hymnal for use in the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, England, Ireland, Canada and Australia. The idea seems to have originated here, and a proposal embodying it was laid before a joint meeting of delegates attending the Council of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, at Toronto, and members of the Hymnal Committee. The idea was favorably received and is likely to be carried into effect, at least, so far as the British Churches are concerned. It is needless to enlarge on the advantages to be derived from such a book. It would be a significant bond of unity between branches of the same church; it would tend toward closer relations between the Home and Colonial bodies; it would preserve tender associations; and would furnish an object lesson of the fraternal spirit of the church membership. Bearing in mind these, and other considerations, it is satisfactory to learn that two members of the Committee, each peculiarly fitted for the task, will represent the Canadian Church, at the meetings to be held, early in April, at Edinburgh, by delegates from the Scottish, Irish and English Presbyterian Churches. There are not a few who believe the difficulties in the way to be insuperable, but the

Canadian brethren, Revs. D. J. Macdonnell and Alex. McMillan, Mimico, are men of courage and ability with faith in their case which will go far to crown their efforts with a fair measure of success. It is not improbable that most of the hymns selected by the Canadian Committee have already found a place in the draft books in course of preparation by the other churches. If so the joint committee will have to deal only with those, included in some, but not in all the books—probably a small proportion of the various collections. Even if this element cannot be satisfactorily disposed of, a common plan of classification, indexing, and folioing, would be worth not a little in the direction of desirable uniformity.

They Must Persevere.

Journals and men who regard with hostility every move made for enforcing Sabbath Observance, have tried to turn to ridicule the appearance, last week, of the deputation before the Ontario government. But, while ridicule is a powerful weapon in a good cause, it will avail little against the cherished principles of a Christian people. With open enemies no means come amiss, but better treatment and graver consideration than were accorded, were to have been expected at the hands of the government. The interview, was not satisfactory. The deputation consisted of prominent clergymen and influential gentlemen of the very highest character, and the case was clearly and reasonably presented. The demand was a modest one, Mr. O'Meara, who spoke for the deputation, stating that they only wanted the principle of the Lord's Day act applied to the radial electric railways. And, inasmuch as the act authorized "travel," while prohibiting pleasure excursions, its ambiguity made its enforcement in many cases, exceedingly difficult or impossible. Therefore they asked that a clause be put into the new legislation, a clause which shall prohibit all railways operating under it from running on Sundays. In support of this proposition he urged that there was no demand for more traffic on the Lord's Day, no travellers crying out for greater facilities. The only demand was by the promoters of these railway projects. If such a clause as was now proposed were not inserted the effect would be that Sunday excursions would be run by these railways notwithstanding that the law now says that they are unlawful.

The justice and mercy of the request cannot be questioned; indeed, it is characterized by the utmost moderation. Yet the attitude of the government was hostile, Sir Oliver Mowat taking the ground that the government could not move in advance of popular demands and holding that the people did not want legislation in the direction indicated. And he was strengthened, in this position by two of his colleagues, Messrs. Hardy and Gibson. If, therefore, the Sabbath Observance Committee, mean business, they must agitate the Christian people, for not principles, not arguments, but votes, are the power to which legislatures will yield.

Everywhere the Same.

If the statement by Rev. Dr. Sims, before the Ministerial Association of Toronto, on Monday, be true, it is high time the government was instituting an enquiry into the management of the Mercer Reforma-