

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIV.—No. 24

TORONTO, DECEMBER 16, 1897.

\$1.50 per Annum

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 23, 21, 25, Abchurch Lane, South East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2461, Toronto, Ont.

Publishers and Proprietors.

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

EDITOR:—Alexander Fraser, M.A.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:—Rev. Prof. Scrimger, M.A., D.D., Montreal.

“ “ Rev. Prof. A. B. Baird, B.D., Winnipeg.

“ “ Rev. Donald MacKenzie, B.A., Oranville.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENTS:—Rev. James Robertson, D.D., Winnipeg.

“ “ Rev. D. D. MacLeod, Barrie.

“ “ Rev. W. Leslie Clay, B.A., Victoria, B.C.

“ “ Miss Machar, Kingston.

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 Dec. 16, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The various Young People's Societies in Toronto are taking steps to form an interdenominational organization with the object of taking an effective part in the forthcoming municipal election, and in any municipal or public question that may arise, having a bearing on the moral and religious well-being of the community. An organization on somewhat similar lines sprang up in connection with the Sunday Car contest, and helped the right, at that time to a very considerable degree. It must appear that the existence of an organization such as that proposed would be very desirable, and a permanent committee or federation should be formed for the purposes in view. There will be no lack of opportunity of doing good. Questions are often cropping up which are of serious importance from a moral standpoint, and the influence of a body of opinion wisely directed will be of untold advantage to the cause of righteousness in public affairs. The active dissemination of correct ideas on public affairs is nothing less than a sacred duty, and every encouragement ought to be extended to the Young People's movement.

It is not often two such notable speeches as that of Hon. G. W. Ross, referred to last week, and that of Hon. Edward Blake come close upon each others heels. Mr. Blake is in striking contrast to Mr. Ross. The former is pessimistic, the latter optimistic and buoyant and inspiring. And it is not often so emphatic a reception has been accorded by the country to public addresses, in brief time, as has been accorded to them. The pro British utterance of the Minister of Education, the intuitive feeling towards our destined goal, went straight

home to the hearts of the Canadian people and there is no mistaking the satisfaction produced. On the other hand Mr. Blake's doubts as to closer commercial relations with Britain and as to British trade concessions, have been soundly objected to as groundless or at least as problematical in the extreme. He has excited no sympathy in country the and whether his forecast be right or wrong, he is unsupported in his views. His speech serves only to bring into clearer relief that of Mr. Ross, which is still ringing in the public ear as a most welcome deliverance. These addresses are valuable if for nothing else in that they have tested public opinion of great national questions.

Forms of petition for amendment of the Lord's Day Act are in the hands of a large number of ministers and others throughout the Province. These, to be effective, should be signed and sent in at once. It is most urgently important that this matter be promptly attended to. Petitions should be sent to the Local Member for presentation in the House.

It is necessary, in accordance with the regulations under which this Fund is administered, that ministers connect themselves with it within four years from the date of their ordination. The special attention of ministers, who have not complied with this regulation, is called to the resolution of last Assembly, giving discretionary power to the Committee to admit them prior to the 1st. of January, 1898. As it is within a fortnight of that date, all who desire connection must immediately make application.

The extension of Home Mission work in the North West and British Columbia supplies the Rev. Dr. Cochrane with an unanswerable argument on behalf of increased contributions to the Home Mission Fund. Rev. Dr. Robertson has been rendering valuable service of late in calling attention to the same subject and his words will be received with the respect which sanctified zeal and an unequalled knowledge of the facts, will always command. The recent mission to the Klondyke, Skaguay, Dawson City and other points will entail much additional expense and Drs. Cochrane and Robertson view the end of the financial year with no small anxiety. The church, however, sometimes even surpassed the expectations of the Committee and this year is not likely to fail in doing her whole duty. But it is well that the needs of the field should be kept constantly before the people and Rev. Dr. Cochrane will see to it that this is done. In his recent circular he aptly quotes his Excellency Earl Aberdeen's tribute to the Home Mission Work of the Church, as follows: "I wish to allude to the manner in which the Presbyterian Church in Canada has made, and is making, it a definite part of its policy to aim at providing the ordinances of religion in out lying and sparsely populated districts in their earlier stages of settlement. I quite understand that other denominations, with not less earnestness, aim at carrying on this Home Mission work; but I have an impression that the Presbyterian Church has more specially arranged to provide services, even before the locality is financially able