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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1872.

EXPLANATORY.

The Canada Baptist of this week is angry with us for having had some of its selections in our last week's issue. The explanation is easy. The office at which we have our printing done has not yet fully recovered from the effects of the strike, and could not set up sufficient matter for us. In such circumstances the printers of the *Baptist*, by a well understood piece of courtesy, supplied one or two of their set up forms, to oblige, not us, but our printers. If the *Baptist* is annoyed at this, we can assure our cotemporary that we were equally so, for we were thus obliged to leave out what we should have much preferred to the paragraphs in question. We should have thought the *Baptist* more acquainted with newspaper work than to find fault with so well known a piece of office accommodation. The idea of our not being able to make so judicious a selection is too absurd.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The past week has been one very barren of incident. Literally there has been nothing stirring.

Since the passing of the Washington Treaty, our legislators at Ottawa have had a quiet time of it. Ministers have their large majority and can do very much as they please. One thing only troubles them and that is the difficulty about the school law in New Brunswick. Both Sir John and Sir George very properly regard it as quite competent for the Local Legislature to pass that law, but their Roman Catholic followers have quite a different notion. They call upon the Dominion authorities to disallow it, and failing in that they now move that a representation be made to the Privy Council and Parliament of great Britain to get the Confederation Act so modified as to secure a Separate School law for the offending province. The ferment in the province is great—the majority being as resolutely in favour of things remaining as they are, as the other side is determined on change. It will so far tend to open the eyes of the New Brunswickers to the true character of the Romish system and the meddling character of the priest party in Quebec who must have everything managed according to their ideas, else there is no peace. If there is such a thing as a local question at all, that of education as at present under discussion at New Brunswick must be so regarded. The people of that province must settle it among themselves without any outside interference, though we may add the majority ought to be quite sure that they give the minority no ground for reasonable complaint. With this recommendation the difficulty has in the meantime been settled by Parliament.

The Washington Treaty was expected to hold good after all, by the Americans agreeing to withdraw their claim for consequential damages. It seems however by the latest news that the British Government has declined to accept the supplementary article as amended by the Senate and there is therefore every likelihood of negotiations being broken up.

The prospects of Horace Greeley ever coming to occupy the White House very

much depend upon the action of the Democrats at the approaching convention at Baltimore. If they adopt him as their candidate he will make a strong run. If they nominate another, it is thought he will withdraw from the contest in favour of the nominee in the coming Convention of the Republicans, who is sure to be Grant.

The Public Works going on in Canada make the demand for all kinds of labour very great. None who are able and willing to work need want full and remunerative employment.

A considerable number of farmers and others are moving to Manitoba. This is the best and most efficient way to settle all the troubles in that quarter. Fifteen or twenty thousand added to the population in a year or two would very speedily give a new face to everything. All who go seem very much pleased with the country.

The difficulties between employers and employed seem as far as Canada is concerned in the fair way of being amicably arranged. In the old country the movement for "nine hours" is generally successful. Now is the time for working men to make good their professions of a desire for shorter hours, in order to mental and spiritual improvement. If they would but give up the taverns, they would be a great deal more independent of their employers and a great deal more likely to secure the sympathy of other portions of the community. Many are poverty-stricken working men and will continue such to the end, not because employers have been harsh, tyrannical, and niggardly, but simply because they themselves have loved a "horn" and have been constant frequenters of the tavern. It is not the tyranny of the masters that the operatives in this country have to fear, but bad whiskey, loafing habits, and vile tobacco. They boast of freedom, while they are too often the slaves of corruption. A more comfortable and independent class of men than the skilled and unskilled workers of Ontario need not be, if they would only cultivate frugality and temperance.

THE COMING ASSEMBLY OF THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church meets on Tuesday first in Knox Church, Hamilton, and will in all likelihood continue in session for more than a week.

The subjects which will come up for discussion and settlement are of special importance, and will require careful and judicious handling. It is not for us to indicate with any appearance of authority the course which that venerable body ought to pursue in reference to those questions which will be under consideration. Some of them have already been discussed in our columns by different correspondents, and from different points of view.

The great question of Union will necessarily occupy a prominent place in those deliberations, and it is to be hoped a very decided step will be taken toward a satisfactory solution of the difficulties by which apparently it is at present beset. The great difficulty in the matter is, as all acknowledge, in connection with the arrangement and disposal of the literary and theological institutions of the different uniting bodies. That a considerable majority of the ministers of the Canada Presbyterian Church is prepared for union on the understanding that all these institutions be received as bearing the same relationship to the united Church which they now hold to the separate ones, is, we think, beyond all reasonable doubt. The decision of last Assembly, and the findings of the different Presbyteries make this manifest. At the same time there can be as little doubt that there is a section which, if not very large, is highly respectable, and possessed of a good deal of influence that is decidedly hostile to union on any such terms. That any belonging to this section would carry their opposition so far as to decline entering the united body on such terms we can scarcely bring our minds to believe; but they would be halfhearted and dissatisfied. Could no compromise be effected that might satisfy all parties? We think there might. At least, most anxious as we are for union, we cannot think it would be wise to bring it on in spite of objectors or doubters who might perhaps be led, in course of time, to enter

cordially into the movement, and find all their difficulties and objections at an end. The question has not as yet been very long before the different churches. Nothing will be gained by undue precipitancy in the matter. Better "hasten slowly." The use of Instrumental Music in public worship will also again come up for discussion, and promises to give a good deal of trouble. In all likelihood the interim decision of Assembly will be adopted as the permanent rule and the use of instrumental music therefore, within certain well defined limits, sanctioned in the Church.

There will also be a movement for the preparation of a small volume of hymns to be issued under the authority of the Assembly for use in public and family worship. Of course, by the very terms of Union, any congregation that chooses can at present use the United Presbyterian Hymn Book. That book was not permitted merely to those who were actually using it, but to all who chose to have it. At the same time it was not formally adopted and recommended, so that it is quite correct to say that the Canada Presbyterian Church has no duly authorized Hymn Book of its own, and therefore it is that some are moving for the compilation of such a volume. It comes however to be a grave question whether all that can at present be gained by such a movement is worth the discomfort and dispeace which it is likely to awaken. A good many already use the Hymn Book of the United Presbyterian Church. Others may if they feel inclined do the same, and their doing so would give far less pain and annoyance to those who conscientiously disapprove of the use of hymns altogether, than for the Assembly to come to a definite vote on the subject and commit itself formally and officially to the sanction of another Hymn Book. Besides, so long as there are negotiations about union with other churches going on, it would be somewhat inopportune to press this Hymn question.

Let us hope that the question of intemperance with all its attendant evils will also receive the best attention of the Assembly. That question is every year becoming of more importance, and no Church Court can long afford to give it the go-by, by a vague and non-committal resolution in favour of "strict sobriety in the use of intoxicating liquors."

The consideration of these and other points will give the Assembly abundance of work, and we are sure that the prayer of very many is that the result of its deliberations may tend greatly to the advancement of the cause of Christ both in this and other lands.

LABOUR WAGES IN EUROPE.

The discussions going on about wages and hours of labour are naturally leading to increased attention being given to the state of the labourer in the principal countries of Europe. The more this is done, the more is it evident that some change of one kind or other in the way of improvement ought to take place without delay. In many of the countries the peasants toil in the fields from sunrise to sunset for the merest pittance, which is scarcely able to keep body and soul together. In Austria the average rate of labourers wages is eighteen cents a day in Summer and twelve in Winter. Women get fifteen dollars a year and board when paid at the largest rate. Most don't get more than half of that. In December, the labourer gets thirty cents a day and board himself.

In France a farm labourer gets from sixty to eighty dollars a year and his board. In Prussia wages range from ten to twenty-four cents a day, with house and garden free.

In Italy, about thirty cents without board, while in the Netherlands the labourer gets only from sixteen to eighteen cents a day, though every thing is as dear as in England. In Russia, about eleven cents a day, if hired by the season. What the wages in the agricultural parts of England are, has been shown in connection with the recent strikes in Warwickshire.

No wonder when such a state of things is looked at that there should be an ever increasing tide of emigration to this western world, and that it should be the thirstiest and most prudent and most energetic of the people of the different countries that are coming. The movement is for good to those who come and those who stay.

PRESBYTERIAN ITEMS.

THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND met on the 18th inst at Edinburgh. After sermon by the retiring Moderator, —the Rev. Dr. Edmond of London,—and the adjustment of the roll of members, the Rev. John Cairns, D. D., of Berwick-on-Tweed, was unanimously elected Moderator. The attendance was large, and much interest was shown in the proceedings. A very keen discussion took place over the Education Bill at present before Parliament, ending in a general approval of the measure.

The subject of union with the other Presbyterian bodies was taken up on the 15th, and after an animated discussion it was agreed by a very large majority to adopt the suggestion of the Union Committees, in reference to making the ministers of the different churches proposing union eligible as ministers by congregations of the U. P. body. The usual missionary meeting took place on the Wednesday evening. Among the speakers were the Rev. Dr. Cairns, Douglas, of China; Smith of India; and Fisch of Paris.

The progress of this Church may be seen from the following statistics for 1871, as contrasted with similar ones for 1861:

	1861.	1871.	Increase in ten years.
Number of congregations, Elders,	603,	4901,	51.
Members in full communion,	181,426,	13181,	13181.
Average Sabbath attendance,	205,305,	2863,	2863.
Number of S. School Teachers,	10,371,	1478,	1478.
do do do Scholars,	81,451,	9152,	9152.
Annual income for congregational purposes, Missionary and Benevolent Societies,	\$1,143,650,	\$335,100,	\$335,100.
	\$482,230,	\$165,465,	\$165,465.
Total income for all purposes ending 31st Dec. 1871.	\$1,625,880,	\$500,565,	\$500,565.
Total raised for ten years ending 31st Dec. 1871.		\$13,744,855.	\$13,744,855.

It has missionaries in Jamaica, Trinidad, Old Calabar, Caffraria, India, China, and Spain. It has an educated Foreign Mission agency of 281 persons; 6206 communicants in Mission churches; and 8590 pupils in week day schools.

The Presbyterian Church of the United States has continued its meetings in Detroit. The number of commissioners present is 405, among other arrangements made by the hospitable people of Detroit for the entertainment of the members may be mentioned a series of assemblies in private houses where the ministers and elders may become acquainted with each other and with the leading Christians of the city. The most important matter as yet discussed in the assembly has been in reference to ministers without charges. These all continue members of the different Presbyteries within whose bounds they reside, though they may be regularly engaged in secular work, and sometimes outvote the regular pastors. This is a sore evil from which we in Canada are happily free.

LONDON MAY MEETINGS.

The London Missionary Society held its annual meeting in Exeter Hall, London, on the 9th inst. The report read was a very encouraging one. The income for the year was £111,517 15 11, while the expenditure amounted to £114,906. At the several mission stations planted by the agents of the society there are 70,000 persons in full membership, while there are in all 450,000 attendants upon public worship under more or less regular instruction. The half of both these numbers are in the island of Madagascar where a surprising religious movement is still in progress. About 2000 native evangelists are, in that island, employed in one way or another in the work of spreading the Gospel; while there is a regular Theological Hall for the training of a native ministry. Among the speakers at the meeting were Dr. Turner from the South Seas, and Dr. Robert Moffat, the well known missionary from South Africa. He has been engaged in the work since 1816, and has just finished the revision of his translation of the Bible in the Sechuana language.

The Sunday School Union had also a very effective meeting on the 9th, as well as a good many other minor societies, but our space will not allow us to give particulars.

The rebellion in the Romish Church looks formidable. Four members of the University of Bonn are threatened with major excommunication, and the people stand by them. Cologne pastors are uniting and opposing the Bishops who defend infallibility; so are priests in Munich and Breslau. Luther is coming again to Germany.

PREACHERS' GRIEVANCES.

The remarks of a correspondent on the "Probationers Scheme," which will be found in another column, are well worth the serious consideration of all. While not endorsing all our correspondent's statements, we rather think that there is more truth than poetry about them. It is a matter for regret, yet still it is an undoubted fact, that the laws of the Church are too often observed only so far as they suit the views or convenience of individuals or Presbyteries. When it is otherwise they are treated as dead letters. We do not like to put things too strongly, but we are convinced that probationers are often grievously wronged by the way in which they are kept out of vacancies to suit the convenience of settled ministers who are anxious for a change, and have the ear of some of the Presbytery clerks. It is in any case a difficult matter to arrange satisfactorily for the supply of vacancies, but if the whole were done according to the regulations actually in force, and were some of the more prominent ministers not so anxious to play the patron, and save congregations the trouble of judging for themselves, the work would be greatly simplified, and we believe, rendered more satisfactory to all concerned. Congregations may sometimes be mistaken and may choose the wrong man, but they are quite as likely to avoid this when left to their own judgments, as when overwhelmed with hints and suggestions about the admirable qualities of this candidate, or the peculiar idiosyncrasies of some other which render him in the estimation of the self-chosen advisers, very unsuitable for the office of pastor. Officious and unfounded ecclesiastical gossip has often preceded a preacher, creating unfavourable prejudices in advance, and destroying prospects in a manner not to be grappled with, because not even known till after the injury had been inflicted, and the wrong put beyond remedy. While we say all this, we must at the same time acknowledge that it is much easier to point out an evil than to suggest an adequate remedy.

HOME MISSION WORK.

We give this morning an interesting communication from one of the students employed in mission work on the Upper Ottawa. We hope this is only the first of a large number of similar papers which we shall have the pleasure of publishing during the season. Short, intelligible statements of the actual facts are what we want and will welcome with special thankfulness. We believe the members of our churches require to have such facts laid before them. They really don't know what need there is in our new settlements, and what work our missionaries are doing. What wonder then that they should not be so much interested in those undertakings as they ought to be, and not so liberal as the necessities of the case imperiously demand? Presbyterianism has lost ground in many districts which it might have occupied almost entirely had men and means been supplied as they ought to have been, and as we believe, to a great extent they would have been had information on the subject been systematically diffused through the older and wealthier congregations.

Accounts of parties for Manitoba is multiplying. One exchange thinks there will certainly be 1,000igrants to that Province within a month.

Wholesale excommunication is threatened by the Ecumenical Patriarch against the Bulgarian Bishops, who elected an ungracious Exarch. The latter is only to be received by the Patriarch on confessing his faults, and condemning those of his electors. These rather hard conditions have been reported to the Sublime Porte.

Rev. Richard Carden, the London clergyman whose piteous petitions for destitute widows, deserted orphans, and other interesting persons whose sufferings he depicted, resulted in his receiving large sums of money which he appropriated to his own use, he been sentenced to hard labor in jail for nine months. A money office clerk produced ninety-six post-office orders received by the prisoner. The trial served to show the enormous amount of private charity bestowed in London, much of which it may be feared passed into hands as little worthy of it as those of the reverend impostor.

The English Presbyterian Synod met last month. The plan of sustentation reported by the Committee, and already voted on by the Presbyteries, was adopted. The Union Committee were instructed to enter into immediate negotiations for union with the United Presbyterians and Reformed Presbyterians of England. The proposition of the joint Union Committee in Scotland in favor of recognizing the ministers of the negotiating churches to enter in the English Presbyterian Church, was approved. The statistics show 122 or 133 churches, 24,580 communicants, 270,000 general receipts; average amount of stipend, £221.