

Darkness.

BY REV. MR. HEMSTRAED.

The vast and awful night has made its stand Upon the circle of the world. No star Looks trembling from the purple depths afar—

Nervous Preachers.

The unfortunate request of the new pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in this city, that a lady who was coughing would leave the house because it annoyed him,

harm than good. It has been well termed "a serious defect." The sacred desk is not the place where the evils of natural temper are to be exhibited, but the holy ground on which ministers are to tread,

But what of the people in the pews? A cough or a sneeze cannot always be suppressed. Exciting and sometimes injurious accidents may happen at any time.

The Curate and the Bricklayer.

A Manchester curate did a good thing the other day. Walking along a street in the dinner hour, he passed a lot of bricklayers smoking their after-dinner pipe, and heard one of them say, "I'd like to be a parson, and have nowt to do but to walk about in a long black coat, and carry a walking-stick in my fist, and get a lot of brass."

Clean Living.

The apostle, James, assures us that it is the duty of the Christian to "keep himself unspotted from the world."

Two brothers are directed, by their parents, to go upon an errand at the other end of a long and muddy street. One of them goes cautiously and carefully, watching every step, turning now to this side and now to that to find the cleanest and driest portion of the road.

The errand of life on which all of us are sent, is performed under very similar conditions. The road we must travel is by no means well kept or cleanly.

The rule of conduct for ministers in all cases of disturbance is manifestly to control themselves in order to control their congregations. Any exhibition of peevishness, irritability, or bad temper is sure to do more

not watch eagerly for the garbage cart or voluntarily turn rag-picker in the gutters of society. If there is a new mud puddle in his way, he goes around it or steps over it. In other words, while the tendency with unconverted men is to grow more in love with the vile things and to be increasingly defiled therewith, the true Christian becomes more and more careful to avoid defilement and to keep himself "unspotted from the world."

THE Church of Scotland employs Professor Miller as an inspector of psalmody. He examines preceptors and issues certificates to them, and then they receive annual grants. Last year Professor Miller visited thirty congregations in different parts of the country, and found that six congregations sang with great heartiness, eighteen did fairly, and six left all to the choir.

The public will acquiesce in the news that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, whose irresponsible large-salaried dictator has fomented so many of the disturbances of the past year, is nearly bankrupt, and that it must fall to pieces.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has resolved upon holding a Pan-Anglican Synod at Lambeth Palace in the autumn of 1878,

and with that view has recently been in communication with the whols of the English, Scottish, Colonial, and missionary Bishops, with a view to ascertain whether they acquiesce in the propriety of the proposed Synod, and whether they will attend.

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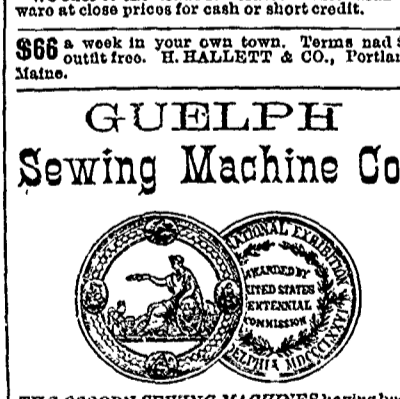
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Efforts will be made during the coming year to make the PRESBYTERIAN increasingly attractive and useful to the large constituency it aims to represent. To this end the Editorial staff will be strengthened; a larger variety of Missionary Intelligence will be furnished by Dr. Fraser, Formosa; Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, and Rev. James Douglas, India; and special papers are expected from the following gentlemen:— Rev. Dr. Waters, St. John, N.B. Rev. Prof. Bryce, M.A., Winnipeg, Ma. Rev. Principal McVicar, L.L.D., Montreal. Rev. John Cook, D.D., Quebec. Rev. Prof. Grogg, M.A., Toronto. Rev. John Laing, M.A., Dundas. Rev. Prof. McKerran, M.A., Kingston. Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, B.A., Pombroke. Rev. G. M. Grant, M.A., Halifax, N.S. Rev. W. Houston, M.A., Bathurst, N.E. Rev. Geo. Bruce, M.A., St. Catharines. Rev. John Gallaher, Pittsburg, O.; etc., etc. Rev. Alexander McKay, D.D.

The Sabbath School Lessons will be continued; and increased attention will be paid to the question of Prohibition now happily growing on the public mind. All matters affecting the interests of our Church shall have prompt and careful attention; and the legislation likely to come before next General Assembly will be fairly discussed, and its bearing on the future of Presbyterians in the Dominion duly examined.

We invite the cordial co-operation of ministers, elders, and people generally to aid in extending the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN. Much has been done in this way already; but much still remains undone. Our circulation is now 6,000; there is no good reason why it should not be 16,000. If each of our present subscribers will only send us ANOTHER NAME we shall at once reach 12,000, and then to get the remainder will be a comparatively easy matter. Friends, help us in this particular.

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It is true that we have not by any means reached our ideal of what such a paper should be; but marked improvements will be made in the next volume. In order to insure an interesting quantity of reading matter the paper will be placed in charge of a gentleman in every way competent to conduct such a publication; the illustrations will be more numerous; and the issue of the periodical earlier and more regular than in the past. Last year we promised letters from the Rev. J. Fraser Campbell; but he only left a couple of months ago, so that it was impossible to redeem this promise. Both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Douglas will (D.V.) write during the coming year, and Dr. Fraser, who is already so well and favourably known to our young readers, will continue his valuable contributions.

Ministers and superintendents are earnestly invited to forward their orders without delay, so that we may know in good time the number to be printed for January.

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