

British American Presbyterian

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT TORONTO, CANADA.

TERMS: \$2 a year, in advance. Postage by mail, 20 cents per year, payable at the office of delivery.

Active Correspondents and Local Agents wanted, to whom liberal commissions will be paid. Cheques and P. O. Office Orders should be drawn in favor of the Publisher.

O. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher and Proprietor.

Office—No. 102 Bay Street, House—No. 37 Elm St., Toronto.

Any irregularity in the receipt of the PRESBYTERIAN will be immediately rectified on notice being sent by Postal Card or otherwise.

Single insertion (for less than one month) 10c. per line (non-pariel) each insertion.

Special rates for quarterly, half-yearly and yearly ad-vertisements.

No double columns cuts 25 percent extra; special rates in reading matter 10 cents per line each insertion.

Office, No. 102 Bay Street, (Late Telegraph build-ings).

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1878.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The discussion about the removal of the Agricultural Farm from Mimico to Guolph was a long and spirited one, and brought out more opposition than the Mowat ministry has yet encountered.

In the Federal Legislature there has been one division, resulting in a majority of 16 for the Government. Both sides are still very sanguine, the one of being able to keep the Treasury Benches, the other of being able to take them.

President Grant has publicly declared his unabated confidence in Schuyler Colfax, notwithstanding all the charges brought against the latter in connection with the Credit Mobilier scandal. It may be as the President says, but it will be very difficult to persuade the general public that Mr. Colfax is innocent.

From Britain we have had the astonishing news that the Gladstone Ministry has been defeated on the second reading of the Irish University Bill. Particulars are not yet known, but it is thought the Ministry will resign. We should rather believe that, seeing the term of the present Parliament is so nearly expired at any rate, an appeal would be made by Gladstone to the country before quietly withdrawing at the dictation of Cardinal Cullen.

Another illustration of the rising tide of public opinion about the liquor traffic and the growing conviction that it ought not to be tolerated, was shown in the debate on the Prohibition Bill of Dr. Clarke. Comparatively little direct opposition was shown to the principle of Prohibition, and the one great argument against any movement in the direction indicated by the bill was that it was not competent for the local Legislature to deal with the subject, which was altogether under the authority of the Federal Parliament.

In Ontario the great subject of local interest during the past week has been the Government scheme for disposing of the vexed question of the Municipal Loan Fund and distributing at least some part of the surplus money of the province. Mr. Mowat, in a long and elaborate statement on Friday last, unfolded the ministerial plan. The time for discussing it has not yet arrived. In the meanwhile it seems to be generally regarded as judicious and arranged on fair and equitable principles. Of course, in a matter affecting so many different interests, there will be cases of apparent hardship, but upon the whole the general feeling is that the Government has desired to deal impartially and fairly with all, and that it has to a very great extent succeeded.

THE EMPLOYEES ON RAILWAYS AND SABBATH WORK.

We are pained to notice the increasingly high-handed way in which the railway authorities of our country are dealing with their servants in the matter of Sabbath work. If the Christian people of the country are not prepared to allow the whole matter to go by default, and let our railway magnates do very much as they like, they will have to bestir themselves. Already, both on the Grand Trunk and Great Western, the Sabbath is taken as the great day for making up the way in the freight department. Not only is there as much done on this day in that branch of the business as on others, but we are credibly assured there is more. The length of time during which the poor men are upon duty is also a great hardship. Frequently they are so knocked up for want of sleep that they scarcely know what they are doing. Of course the natural result of this is acci-

deuts—with loss of life and property. All remonstrance on the part of the men would only result in their being told that they must do as bidden or leave. We, in fact, are beginning to see the beginnings of a railway despotism which had better be stopped before it has got any farther power. The poor men who run the trains can no doubt be stopped and punished as acting contrary to law. But that is of no use. We must have the law so changed as to be able to get at the higher officials of our railways, and at the funds of the companies in the shape of fines.

The last exhibition of this high-handed insolence of railway officialdom is the reply of the Grand Trunk Manager to the Engineers who lately sent in a round robin refusing to start freight trains as a regular thing on the Sabbath day. The offending signers were told to send in an ample apology for their insolence, and work as usual on Sunday, on pain of instant dismissal. This is the way our railway big-wigs disport themselves, and in the meantime the religious public folds its hands and does nothing to the purpose, in the way of opposition.

PROGRESS IN THE PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

There are tokens of life and progress in the Presbytery of Bruce. The increase of congregations, building of churches, ordination and induction of ministers, demonstrative activity and prosperity in this North-western part of Ontario. Since the induction of Mr. Cameron in Lucknow last summer they have already built a neat frame church capable of seating over three hundred, which is by-and-bye to be turned into a lecture room and superseded by an edifice of brick. A large and substantial brick manse is to be erected presently. At the same time the contributions to the schemes of the church have been increased greatly. In TEESWATER, Mr. Wardrop's congregation are preparing material for a large brick church, to be completed next summer. It will be an ornament to that thriving village. At PINKERTON a beautiful frame building was opened on the 9th of last month by Rev. J. Straith, of Paisley, who preached to a full house morning and afternoon. A soiree was held on the Monday evening following, when a perfect jam of people assembled. They were addressed by Rev. S. Messrs. McNaughton, Straith and others. The church will seat over three hundred—is well finished and painted outside and in. It is the more creditable to the people in view of the fact that they have had very little fostering care—were but recently recognized as a station, and when one of the neighboring ministers preached among them, just one year ago, they stated that no Presbyterian minister had preached there for two years. They are now regularly supplied and looking for a pastor to be settled over them. The congregation of SALEM church, (Elderslie) had so increased that more accommodation became indispensable. Last summer they added twenty-four feet to the length of the church, which was all finished and re-opened by the pastor, Rev. J. Straith, last November. There is not a cent of debt upon it. In PAISLEY, Knox church has, for some time, been intolerably crowded. They have advertised for tenders to build a church seventy-eight feet by forty-eight feet. The improvement in this congregation may be estimated by the fact that last year they gave more to the schemes of the church than they had done in ten years before. In TIVERTON a large addition was made to the church some time ago and at the same time a fine brick manse was built. There is a very interesting movement in this congregation under the pastoral care of Rev. J. Anderson. A marked religious awakening is in progress. Meetings were held daily after the first week in January and largely attended. May they and we all receive a great baptism of the Holy Ghost. In LANGSIDE, Rev. Mr. Davidson was ordained on the 15th Oct.—a very happy settlement. The energetic little flock are about to erect a manse. The ordination of Rev. W. Ferguson took place in Glamis on the 2nd January. That congregation—long vacant, and suffering natural consequences—are giving signs of revived interest in the things of the Heavenly Kingdom. CULROSS, PORT ELGIN, and DUNBLANE, are likely to be settled immediately. "And yet there is room." More labourers are wanted. Southampton congregation is so increased that they want another to assist Mr. Tolmie in his large and interesting field. We could give a similar account of other congregations, but we must abbreviate.

The Presbytery is working heartily and happily. They have had some difficult matters to manage, but have succeeded well and the Divine blessing seems to attend their labours. They have bound themselves by common consent to give a portion of their time to the Mission fields or vacancies in their bounds, to supply the lack of labourers. There are inviting fields in Bruce, white to the harvest, if the right sort of men can be got. "Men full of faith and of the Holy Ghost," who will be ready to deny themselves for the sake of Christ and the souls of men.—Com.

Books and Periodicals.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE FOR FEBRUARY.—This is a very good number of an old, established favorite. There is always found in Blackwood a great deal that is worth reading.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—The March number of this excellent monthly contains, as usual, a large amount of entertaining and instructive matter, profusely illustrated. Harper is neither heavy enough to be tedious, nor light enough to be trifling—it strikes the happy mean, and gives us fiction, sketches of travel, popular science, history, literary criticism, and racy anecdotes. It has become such a favorite with readers of periodical literature that a lengthy notice seems entirely unnecessary.

THE MINISTRY OF SUDDEN DEATH; by the Rev. Wm. Robertson, A. M., Chesterfield; G. R. Patullo, Woodstock.—This is a sermon delivered in connection with the death of Dr. Corson, who was killed in Scotland on the 2nd of October, 1872. The doctor was connected with Mr. Robertson's church and was well and favorably known over a wide district of country as a skillful physician and an amiable and excellent man. A large number of those who heard the sermon delivered requested that it should be put in a more prominent form, and accordingly it has been published in this very neat pamphlet. Mr. Robertson's well-known ability as a preacher is a sufficient guarantee for the character of the sermon, which will be found a very interesting one.

Ministers and Churches.

Mr. Gavin Craig, Elder, on behalf of the congregation of Grafton, recently presented the Rev. Alexander Garrick, who most acceptably supplied their pulpit during the absence of the Rev. Mr. Smith, with a cordial address and a purse containing \$68.

The Craigvale congregation had a very successful tea meeting on Friday, the 14th ultimo, in aid of the building fund. Several able and talented speakers addressed the meeting. The sum realized will reach over \$100.—Com.

The congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Pakenham, (Church of Scotland) have presented their predecessor, Mr. R. H. Davie, with a very handsome Family Bible and address on the eve of his departure from that village. At the same time a suitable present and address was presented to the Pastor, Rev. Alex. Mann, A. M., who made an appropriate and affectionate reply.

On the 14th ultimo a deputation consisting of the following gentlemen—Messrs. Williams, Goodfellow, and D. Fraser, from Lefroy, Messrs. R. Boyes and J. S. Lucas, of the central, and Messrs. Joseph Goodfellow, and D. O. Jenkins, from Craigvale—waited upon Mrs. Wightman, the widow of their late pastor, and in the name of the congregations they represented, presented her with the sum of \$94 as a token of esteem.

The annual tea-meeting of the Presbyterians of Princeton was held in the basement of their church on Thursday evening last. The attendance was large, and the amount realized was we believe, over \$80. After tea the audience adjourned to the body of the church, where interesting addresses were delivered by the Pastor, Mr. McQuarrie, Mr. McDonald, of Elora, Mr. McMullen, of Woodstock, and Dr. Clark. At the close of the meeting it was announced that the debt remaining on the church had all been subscribed, and that the property, which is worth at least \$6,000, was entirely free.

BOWMANVILLE.—The annual meeting of the Canada Presbyterian Church, Bowmanville, was held on Saturday, the 1st of March. The Treasurer, Mr. T. Yellowlees, in presenting his report, stated that for the few years since their occupancy of the new church the congregation had made very rapid progress both in members and liberality. In 1869 the total amount of monies raised for all purposes was \$850.00; for the present year, ending the 28th of February, the total amount raised for all purposes was the very handsome sum of \$1,639.74; this, too, was entirely from the ordinary sources of revenue, no outside efforts having been made. At the present, although the church has only been erected three years, every seat is let, and much difficulty is experienced in supplying applicants with accommodation. The congregation, feeling that God had blessed them, decided to increase the salary of their pastor, and added by a unanimous vote, \$200 making it \$1,200, with a good manse. On the Tuesday following the annual meeting, the annual soiree of the congregation was held, at which something over 500 people took tea. Pointed and pithy speeches were delivered by Rev. S. Messrs. Donald, of Port Hope, and Cameron of Toronto, and Rev. Mr. Bone, of the Welland Canal Mission. The pastor, Rev. J. Smith, presided, and the choir rendered some excellent music. Presbyterianism is flourishing in Bowmanville.

On Friday evening, the 14th ult. the Rev. W. R. Sutherland, of Knox Church Wilfrid, was "agreeably surprised" by a large number of the members of his congregation waiting upon him at his residence at Oak-bush, and after filling his house with the most joyful and happy company that we ever had the pleasure of meeting, consisting chiefly of young persons, and partaking of tea and other good things, which they themselves brought with them in rich abundance, M. James Allan, who has been an elder in the congregation for the past thirty years addressed the pastor of the congregation stating, that the purpose of their meeting in this place at this time, was to express their united thankfulness to God for his manifold goodness to them in the past; especially for precious Gospel privileges, so richly enjoyed by them during the past quarter of a century, and to congratulate their pastor at the close of the twenty-fifth year of his ministry among them; that they could never sufficiently express their gratitude to the Lord for preserving to them the privileges of the church of their fathers—the purity of gospel doctrines—the simplicity of the christian worship of the church of the Reformation and faithfulness in preserving order and discipline in the House of God. And further that it was their earnest and affectionate desire that their pastor should be preserved to them, by the mercy and grace of God, for many happy years to come. At the close of this address, Mr. G. Allan presented Mrs. Sutherland, in the name of the ladies of the congregation, with a beautiful purse containing \$78.00 and other valuables to the amount of \$20.00. Mr. Sutherland, in replying to this affectionate expression of attachment, said that, as he would most cordially reciprocate their grateful feelings, their congratulations must be mutual. If they felt that their obligations to God, for gratitude, were great and many, that he felt that very few pastors, in christian churches in this country, had greater cause of thankfulness than he himself had; especially for the attachment and continuing kindness of the people of his charge. That he often felt humbled under a sense of his own unworthiness of the christian attention and regard of his people, while going in and out among them. He said, that while reflecting on the past, we should all recognize the good hand of God upon us, in that the Lord, in his great mercy and loving kindness ever preserved us in peace, unity and love, and that during the past twenty five years, the cause of the Redeemer has made considerable progress in this district. During that time his pastoral charge has set off four or five churches, all of which are prosperous congregations, under the oversight of industrious and devoted ministers, with their churches and manse built and paid,—that notwithstanding having colonized so many churches, their own congregation, without any difficulty, invariably succeeded in building their own places of public worship, supporting missions and sustaining religious ordinances among themselves. And that if it should please the Lord to spare him for any further service, his purpose in the future would be what it was in the past, "to know nothing among them save Jesus Christ, and him Crucified." We should all feel that it is the blessing of God alone, that maketh rich joyful and happy. And that our great concern should be to make sure of our interest in Christ, and enjoy his peace, rest, and love. After much enjoyment, and having sung the 23rd psalm and engaged in prayer, the company separated.—Com.

The changes and improvements which have been going on for some time in Knox Church, Woodstock, having been recently finished, the Church was re-opened for public worship on Sabbath, the 9th inst. The Rev. Dr. Topp, Toronto, officiated in the morning and evening, and the Pastor, the Rev. Mr. McMullen, at the afternoon service. The attendance on all three services was large and attentive while the sermons were in the usual efficient style of the gentlemen who presided. Upwards of \$500 was collected on Sabbath, and the amount is likely to be considerably increased by other donations. On the Monday following a most successful tea meeting was held. The attendance was such as to fill completely the spacious edifice. The provisions for the entertainment made by the ladies of the congregation was on a very splendid scale, indeed such as left nothing to be desired. After tea had been served in the basement, Mr. McMullen took the chair, and after some congratulatory remarks introduced the various speakers who gave short and appropriate addresses. Besides the Rev. Messrs. Grant of Ingersoll, Inglis of Toronto, Simpson of Hamilton, and Cochran of Brantford, who made speeches on the occasion, the Clergymen of the different denominations in the town were present to rejoice with the Knox Church, people on the auspicious occasion. One very interesting feature of the meeting was the appearance of an Italian, formerly a drummer-boy of Garibaldi's who was recently converted from Romanism, and is about to return to Italy as a Missionary in connection with the Wesleyan Methodists. He spoke a few words and sang in exquisite style a beautifully simple and touching hymn "Is it true? Oh! is it true?" By this soiree we understand upwards of \$400 were realized. Knox Church, Woodstock, is now one of the handsomest churches in the Canada Presbyterian Church. It will accommodate upwards of 800 people, and already all the eligible sittings have, we understand, been taken up. The manse, that was recently built is also a very handsome and commodious one, costing upwards of \$3000. The improvements on the Church will cost about \$6000, and the debt remaining on the property will be comparatively trifling. Altogether the minister and congregation are to be congratulated.

Ecclesiastical.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

A meeting of this Presbytery was held in the usual place on the 4th of the present month, attended by 17 ministers and 6 elders. A letter was read from Rev. R. Ewing, of Georgetown, intimating his inability to be present in consequence of severe bodily affliction, and asking supply for his pulpit for a few weeks. The Presbytery agreed to record their cordial sympathy with their afflicted brother, and made arrangements for services to his people on the first Sabbath of April. Rev. W. Reid reported that he had preached to the congregation of Scarborough, and had moderated on a call which was given in favor of Rev. G. Bunfield, of Cookstown, Ont., in the presbytery of Simcoe. Mr. Reid's conduct was cordially approved of. The call was read, and was found to be signed by 166 members, and concurred in by 68 adherents. The salary promised is \$900, together with a manse and globe. Mr. W. Clark, sr., Mr. John Milne, and Mr. W. J. Mitchell, certified commissioners, were heard, after which the call was sustained. The clerk was instructed to inform the presbytery of the foregoing, and to transmit a copy of the reasons of translation, which were handed in from the congregation of Scarborough; and the Revs. Dr. Jennings and Mr. Reid were appointed to appear before the presbytery and support the call. A letter was read from the clerk of the presbytery of Guolph, intimating a wish on the part of the congregation of Evinville that the connection between them and the congregation of Caledon West may be dissolved, and stating also that the latter congregation have expressed their agreeableness thereto. It appears also, that endeavors have been made to ascertain the amount of support that might be expected from said congregations if the separation were effected; and the presbytery of Toronto are asked if they can take charge of Caledon West, and connect it perhaps with some station or congregation in their bounds. After due deliberation, Revs. J. Pringle, J. Alexander, and W. McKay were appointed a committee to confer with all the parties concerned, and to report to next meeting of presbytery. On motion duly made and seconded, Rev. W. Reid was nominated as Moderator of next meeting of the General Assembly. The following ministers were then appointed as commissioners to the supreme court, viz., by rotation: Professors Young and Gregg, Messrs. Pringle, King, and Professor Cavan; and by ballot: Dr. Topp, Mr. Reid, Mr. Dick, Mr. Meikle, and Mr. Alexander. Also the following elders were appointed commissioners, viz.: Hon. John McMurrich, Mr. T. W. Taylor, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. Wm. Archer, Mr. James Brown, Mr. Wm. Barber, M. P., Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. Walter H. Hossie, Mr. James C. McLennan, and Mr. D. Henderson. Notice of an overture to the General Assembly was given by Rev. J. M. King, and to the following effect: "That further efforts be made by the General Assembly to secure the transference of the Kankakee Mission to the care of the American Presbyterian Church, and that in the meantime, and till negotiations for this purpose take effect, the work in Kankakee, and the Assembly's work of French evangelization in the Province of Quebec be consolidated into one scheme, and put on a common fund."

There was read a petition and memorial from the congregation of Boston church, Esquimes, asking the advice of the presbytery in regard to several matters connected with the property of the late U. P. congregation there—now the property of said congregation of Boston Church; also a copy of the minutes of a congregational meeting, at which said petition and memorial was agreed upon. Parties named in these minutes were heard, and thereafter it was moved and agreed to appoint a committee who shall take the papers now named into careful consideration, receive and consider also other papers that may bear on the matters in question, and report at next meeting of presbytery. The following committee were then appointed, viz.: Professor Cavan, Dr. Topp, Mr. John C. McDonald, and Mr. John Barclay.

The presbytery took up and disposed of reports from last meeting of General Assembly. It was agreed to recommend the appointment of a Mission Agent, but that the presbytery refrain from nominating any person for that office. It was also agreed to recommend, that the 3rd clause of the report of committee on standing of retired ministers, and sent down to presbyteries for consideration, be adopted.

It was reported by Rev. J. Dick, that he and Mr. Fotheringham had gone to Vivian, in the township of Whitechurch, and that after conferring with the people who met them there, they would recommend that the presbytery give supply to the aforesaid place as regularly as possible, in connection with Mount Albert. On motion made, the report was received, the recommendations given therein adopted, and thanks given to the committee for their labors.

It was stated by Rev. J. M. King, and the statement was received with satisfaction, that under direction of the Guild Street Session, measures were going on for organizing and continuing evangelistic services in the north-west part of the city of Toronto, and that a lot of ground had been purchased whereon might be erected a mission church. The next meeting of the presbytery was appointed to be held in the usual place on the 2nd Tuesday of April, at 11 a. m.