

British American Presbyterian

107 BAY STREET, TORONTO. FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE EIGHTH PAGE.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

OUR GENERAL AGENT.

MR. CHARLES NICOL, General Agent for the Presbyterian, is now in Western Ontario pushing the interests of this journal.

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1873.

Mr. Froude, the distinguished English historian has been delighting the people of the Metropolis of Scotland with a lecture upon the landed gentry.

The Sabbath School Institute held in this City has proved a great success. The style of Dr. Vincent is attractive.

An interesting case of mutual eligibility has occurred in Orkney, Scotland. The congregation of a parish church has given an unanimous call to a minister of the United Presbyterian Church.

On Monday evening a number of the friends of Temperance met in the Temperance Hall to consider the propriety of submitting the Dunkin Act to the voters of Toronto.

Rev. Charles Clarke has afforded our citizens a great deal of pleasant amusement and solid instruction by his invaluable lectures and sermons.

Good sheds are being erected at St. Andrew's Church, Keokuk, of which Rev. A. H. Cameron is pastor.

SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.

Systematic benevolence is being brought prominently before the churches. Every denomination is alive to its importance.

The subject before us is commended and enforced by the Word of God. The practice of giving systematically was a question that admitted of no choice in the economy of the Jewish Church.

The value of system is a matter of common sense and every day experience. We see what it does for the merchant, making it easy for him to carry vast responsibilities upon his shoulders.

The value of system is seen in the works of God. In nature every thing is done according to plan. Nothing befalls by chance.

System is necessary in the work of the Church. If everything is left to chance, nothing great will be gained, and there will be constant friction and disturbance experienced.

Rev. James Wynn's congregation at Long Island Locks intend building a new church at Manetick this Spring.

CLERICAL INTERFERENCE IN POLITICAL ELECTIONS.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The priests of the Church of Rome claim the right, whenever they have the power, as in the Province of Quebec, to determine who shall be members of Parliament; and thus the right to control the Legislature and compel it to enact laws to suit their purposes.

On the other hand, a writer in the Globe about the beginning of September last, argues that if a Protestant, whether minister or layman, was at liberty to tell an elector that by voting for a certain candidate he would endanger or lose his soul, there is no reason why a Roman Catholic Priest should not have liberty to express a similar opinion.

But with regard to the doctrine that the expression of a condemnatory opinion by a layman respecting an elector's vote, is as proper an object of legal punishment as the "threat of a spiritual penalty by a priest."

And in view of the power which the confessional gives the priest over the conscience of the devout Roman Catholic, he argues that we need a law on our statute books which will inflict severe penalty on every religious teacher of whatever denomination, who may be found guilty of threatening spiritual pains and penalties against electors for the use of their franchise.

What is implied in enlightening the Roman Catholic people as to the absurdity of the claims of the priests and the efficacy of excommunication, but a mission against the whole Popish system as false, for this claim is a part and parcel of the whole system.

them to be. When that paper insinuates that similar threats are made use of by Protestant ministers and laymen, as a means of inducing electors to vote for certain candidates, the main difference being that Roman Catholics believe and are influenced by them, we maintain that serious injustice is done to Protestant ministers and laymen by such a representation.

In the case of the Protestant minister or layman it would be a merely foolish expression of opinion or passion rather, and would be universally laughed at and only expose the offender to ridicule as acting contrary to the principles of Protestantism.

Besides, the maledictions of the clergy have real disadvantages, such as would influence the votes of those who have no faith in the spiritual power of the priests, as well as of those who had.

The plea that a law which would prevent the priests from anathematizing those who repudiated their political views, will interfere with liberty of conscience, will not bear examination.