

# British American Presbyterian,

102 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE EIGHTH PAGE.

C. BLANCHETT ROBINSON  
Editor and Proprietor

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

Articles not accepted will be returned, if at the time they are sent, a request is made to that effect; and sufficient postage stamps are enclosed. Manuscripts not so accompanied will be preserved, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

## OUR GENERAL AGENTS.

Mr. Wm. Selby, General Agent for the Presbyterian and Subscriptions Agent, will visit Bradford, Galt, Guelph, etc., in the course of June and July, next week.

Mr. Charles Nicoll, General Agent for the Presbyterian, is now in Western Ontario pushing the interests of that journal. We encourage him to the best of our ability, and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

# British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1877.

PREVIOUS to the departure of the Rev. R. W. Leitch to his new sphere of labour, the members and other friends belonging to the Newburgh portion of his former charge presented him with a purse containing \$50, accompanied by an address expressing regret for the severance of his connection with them, appreciation of his diligence, punctuality, and anxiety to further their spiritual interests, and earnest wishes for his future welfare and that of his partner in life. Mr. Leitch made a feeling and impressive reply.

"From present appearances, our Presbyterian brethren will have their hands so full for some time to come, with heresies within their own fold, that they will be altogether incapable of looking after the orthodoxy of their brethren without. What with the case of the Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, of Toronto, the Rev. Mr. McCune, of Cincinnati, Professor Smith, of Aberdeen, and now Principal Tallch, who backs him up (we don't know but we ought to include one of their Canadian Principals), it looks as if they will have other to construe the Confession somewhat *elastically*, or their scheme of a Pan-Presbyterian Union will perish at the birth.—*Canadian Independent* ent.

[Our Congregational friends must be reminded that the Presbyterian Church has surmounted much greater difficulties than these. Her creed is worth defending, even at the risk of meeting troubles which can never overtake those Churches which have no creed to defend.—Ed. B.A.P.]

## WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETIES.

We are reminded that, in discussing this subject recently, we omitted to notice the other Woman's Foreign Mission Societies which exist in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in addition to that whose centre is Toronto. A number of active friends of Woman's Missions throughout the Church have preferred the idea of a number of Presbyterian or central societies—all linked together in a "Presbyterian parity" under the Assembly as their head and centre. They think this at once more Presbyterian, more equitable, and more manageable, than the attempt to grasp all the Woman's Mission Societies in our wide Dominion around the Society of any one place as auxiliaries thereto. In this view they may be right or wrong, but on this view they have acted. Societies on this principle have been established at Halifax, Kingston, Hamilton, and a Presbyterian Board of missions has lately been formed in Glenora. All these either have auxiliaries already, or are engaged in forming them, and other Presbyteries have the question of similar organizations under the charge of committees. Of course all these societies are really a part of the Woman's Foreign Mission Societies, or Society, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, finding their unity in the General Assembly, though differing somewhat in internal organization. Some of these societies have discarded the principle of a fixed membership fee—using the envelope system and leaving the amount entirely optional. They think this a more scriptural principle—more in accordance with our Lord's judgment respecting the poor widow's two mites, preventing any from being excluded from their membership on the mere score of poverty, and being a hint to the rich that they are to give "out of their abundance" and in proportion to their means.

There is doubtless plenty of room among us for difference of opinion in details and in difference of agencies, which may by a harmonious rivalry stir one another up to love and good works. Our concern is simply to state facts as they are, and to do justice to all. No woman certainly can find any reasonable Christian excuse for not doing what lies in her power to advance the great and honourable work of Female Missions through some one or other of these societies. And doubtless it will be indicated in good time, in the working of God's Providence, what plan will be best for securing the most general and harmonious co-operation among the Christian women of our Church in advancing this good work.

## ANNIVERSARY WEEK.

During the past week many religious gatherings were assembled in this city. Besides the Presbytery of Toronto, and the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, there were meetings representing every possible variety and shade of Christian work. Indeed, in view of the fact that so many anniversaries occur in the first week of May, we think it would be well for ecclesiastical courts, as the Synod and Presbytery, to avoid, if possible, that week. This would allow their members and those having business before them to be present at the yearly meetings, and to take part in them. As it was, the anniversaries were a great success. They attracted large numbers of interested spectators. They furnished our citizens with excellent opportunities of coming into contact with famous men from other sections of the country, and from the United States. They afforded many the pleasure of listening to the eloquence of strangers' voices. To them we feel ourselves indebted for the social enjoyment to which they led. Considering that this is but the second year for these meetings in Toronto, and that notwithstanding their success was so marked and gratifying, we do well to look forward to their future occurrence for continuing the good which they have already accomplished.

The establishing of these yearly meetings is a hopeful sign for Canada. It shows that the Dominion is coming rapidly to the forefront in regard to the religious movements of the age. The May meetings have for a very long period been a marked feature of the religious life of the metropolis of England. These from time immemorial have been the occasion of doing good and communicating blessing. They have furnished a broad and common platform on which ministers of different denominations could freely meet and freely exchange their thoughts. They have been the means of letting many a flower that seemed born to bloom all alone in the desert, be seen and known by the world. Many a one who—to change the figure—has afterwards become a star of no small magnitude in the ecclesiastical firmament, has owed the beginning of his fame to the London Anniversaries. Men of mark in all countries have been brought together; and from the days of Chalmers, it is the understood thing to invite to London the brilliant lights of the Scottish pulpit. In the same way, for many years New York has had her May meetings. For a long time they were what our American friends call a regular institution. Indeed, they were somewhat overdone, until the people, surfeited with religious gatherings, were glad to fall back upon the press for their information as to the doings of their religious and benevolent societies. Latterly, they so declined in interest, as to prove no longer attractive to the multitudes, nor a suitable rostrum for the rising stars of the country. We believe the public interest in them is reviving, and we hope to learn that this year they have accomplished much good. But whatever be said against a too great supply of anniversaries, no one can gainsay their value in keeping before the public the vast work of benevolence that is being carried on in many different channels. Besides Bible and Tract and Temperance Societies, and Young Men's Christian Associations, there is an anniversary in the States which to us is of special interest, and might very well and gracefully be instituted amongst ourselves. We mean the Sabbath School anniversary. On a certain day in May the children of the Sunday schools in New York, Brooklyn and nearly all the cities and towns in the States, march in procession through the streets carrying flowers and banners. They assemble in certain churches which represent localities, and there are suitably addressed. Their sweet singing is delightful to hear. They then return to their own class-rooms, where the rest of the day is spent over such luxuries as ice cream and cake. The children look forward to their anniversary through the long months, and there is not a pleasanter spectacle to behold.

The people of Toronto may well be proud of this year's May meetings. The assemblies were respectable and intelligent, and the exercises were full of interest. We have already commented at length upon the Ladies' Foreign Mission Society, which held their anniversary in April. The past week has brought to light the work of many other similar and equally honored and useful societies. Our people will henceforth be well informed upon the objects for which they are called to give, and we look for this valuable practical result from these gatherings, that they will stimulate the benevolence of the public in worthy and noble directions.

Miss BELLA MACKENZIE was recently presented with a handsome purse by the Listowel congregation as a slight recognition of her services as organist.

The Rev. H. Crozier having resigned the position of Mission Agent of the Saugeen Presbytery, Rev. R. Moffat, of Walkerton, was appointed in his place. All parties interested will therefore communicate with the latter.

## THE RUSSO-TURKISH WAR.

The threatening cloud of war that has so long hung over Europe has at last burst. It has poured forth its fire and smoke. But the first discharge is seemingly only the prelude to the gathering of still denser and darker clouds. The tempest is only in its beginning. The war may any day bring us tidings of such a carnage as has not taken place since the time of the Crimean war, and that may be still more awful than the loss of life which occurred in some of the encounters between the French and German forces in the latest European war. Let us hope that these hostilities may be short, sharp and decisive; and while we can hardly look for other than the most serious destruction of human life, let our prayers arise to heaven for the speedy accomplishment of the ends which Providence has in view in sending upon these nations this terrible scourge.

A feeling of relief must arise in the hearts of interested spectators because of the termination of the tortuous negotiations for peace which have been so long carried on between the various powers. It was evident at the outset that little could be expected from friendly interference. Still we clung to the futile hope that a peaceful settlement would be made. With what watchful and eager interest the whole world regarded the meeting of the European plenipotentiaries will be long remembered. It was a period of agonising suspense. The cable the one day flashed its peaceful tidings across the ocean; the next, its messages were threatening with war. Hope and fear alternated as we touched the electric pulse, and recognised the sudden changes. When the plenipotentiaries rose, the feeling was widely entertained that all hope of a peaceful solution was gone. Yet no one knew what a day or an hour might bring forth. There was room to hope so long as war was not declared. As, however, the days grew into weeks, it was more and more evident that there was only the alternative of war. The end has come. Suspense is removed. We will no longer be wearied out by the endless complications of diplomatists. It is for us to look on and watch the progress of events. What with the overwhelming forces of Russia, and the strategic skill and fierce bravery of the Turk, the encounter between two such nations is fearful to contemplate. With the religious element as a motive force, the war will be determined and desperate. The Turks will fight for every inch of ground. Then there are the European complications. This is after all the beginning of the end; and while such despatches as that the British Government had pledged themselves to carry out the Treaty of Paris in its integrity, may be justly treated as mere *canards*, we are led to feel that no one can tell the end of the struggle, nor the nations which ere long may find themselves involved in it. A conflagration covering the whole extent of Europe is certainly to be dreaded from the perilous complications of the moment, and while we hope that such a result is extremely improbable, yet who will say that it is impossible.

The European war so recently begun is instructive as to the dealings of Providence with men. When any great evil takes root in a nation, and at length attains gigantic proportions, there are two ways in which it may be overcome and destroyed. The people themselves becoming deeply impressed with the evil existing within their body corporate, being actuated by the lofty motive of bringing about a reformation, may take timely measures for the suppression of the wrong. If this be done, all is well; and more especially if steps be taken to indemnify sufferers, we may be sure that good results will follow. The other method is that which history sets forth as the common and general one. The evil is allowed to grow to such an extent that at length it becomes a scandal. It assumes the character of a crime against humanity. It must be got rid of, is the feeling of every one, but its roots are everywhere. It has become firmly established. There is nothing for it but explosion and destruction. And what might at some other period have been easily settled by negotiation, is now found to be capable of solution only by war. Was not this the case with the Indian Mutiny? In India, religious caste, with all its deplorable results, was incurable. The mutiny, while, so to say, leaving still the strong foundations of caste, blew it into fragments in the air. The victory of the British arms led to the disappearance of many evils, such as the burning of widows and the drowning of female infants in the Ganges, while it opened the way for the more complete possession of that vast country by literature and religion. What was the history of the American rebellion? In a country upon whose constitution was written freedom, the curse of slavery was continued and fostered. At one time that curse might have been done away with by negotiation, by the consideration of rights of property, and by reimbursement. But the period when such was possible was allowed to pass away, so that to get rid of the enormous evil, war in the course of Providence was at length evoked. The chains and manacles of the slave, which at one time could have been so easily opened with the turning of a key, had to be burst into fragments by the explosive materials of war. The same thing is now taking place before our eyes. The fearful atrocities which blackened the character of Moslem and Turk more than ever in the estimation of all men—"man's inhumanity to man" of which so many illustrative examples were given during the past year—the worse than slavery in which Christians in that cruel and superstitious land are held—the misrule of years—are all crying to heaven for vengeance. The opportunity for reforming Turkey from within outwards has, we fear, disappeared for ever. The ostensible object of Russia in defending her Christian subjects from persecution is one which will command general sympathy. Providence is taking its own method of ridding the world of an enormous evil.

With this view, we look forward hopefully to the future. War is an awful curse, to be sure; but there are some things worse than war. The condition of Christians in the East is indeed worse than war. That hostilities will result in good, who can doubt that believes in a just God ruling His world and making all things work together for good. True, in presence of the Fire-Scourge, our missionaries may have to leave their fields of labor, the chapels and schools erected by the benevolence of other Christian nations may be closed, the Bible may be shut out, the printing presses may be stopped, the sound of God's worship may no longer be heard. Let us trust that no worse than this will befall our noble missionaries in the East, that they will not be put to the sword and the faggot, and that the murders which already cry to Heaven may not be rendered more numerous by the martyrdom of those brave men and women who have planted the banner of Christ on the soil of Turkey. But whatever does take place we may rest assured that while many of these evils will be vanquished, a free course will be opened for the ministers of religion and for the gospel of Christ.

## Ministers and Churches.

[We urgently solicit from Presbytery Clerks and our readers generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general epitome of all local church news.]

The Rev. J. C. Smith, of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, has received an unanimous call to St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, as successor to the late lamented Dr. Hogg.

ANNUAL returns of Binbrook and Saltfleet for this year are:—Binbrook—\$1,075.45. Saltfleet—\$766.94; or Binbrook—over \$24 per family, and Saltfleet over \$42. Considering the scanty crops last year, this says well for both. These congregations have built a manse costing over \$2,300, yet their contributions to the schemes of the church are \$188.15, or an increase over the previous year of \$36.66. It is cheering to keep abreast of the hard times.

The beautiful new church just completed by the congregation at Burlington will be opened for public worship next Sabbath, when Rev. Principal Macvicar, of Montreal, will preach at 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m., and Rev. R. N. Grant, of Ingersoll, at three o'clock. On Monday evening a soiree will be held, commencing at six o'clock, when addresses will be delivered by Dr. Macvicar, Rev. W. W. Ross and Rev. R. N. Grant; on Tuesday evening Dr. Macvicar will deliver a lecture on "Our Country's Dangers," on Wednesday evening Rev. R. N. Grant will lecture on "Fire-side Failures," and on Thursday evening a concert will be given by singers from Hamilton and other points. We trust our friends may have a pleasant and profitable season throughout.

The annual report of Erskine Church, Montreal, for 1876, is to hand. From it we learn that the congregation continues to prosper under the ministrations of Rev. J. S. Black. The membership is 534, and the number of sittings let is 717. The debt on the church property is \$9,275, of which about \$7,000 is subscribed. As illustrative of the growth and increased liberality of the congregation, the ordinary revenue from pew rents and Sabbath collections has run up from \$3,844 in 1866 to \$6,454 in 1876—an increase of seventy per cent. in ten years. The total contributions last year were \$15,660, of which \$6,810 was for missionary and benevolent purposes. The Missionary Association is well worked, nearly every family in the congregation contributing. One gentleman alone gave \$600 last year to the funds of the Association, and notwithstanding the "hard times" the total contributions for the schemes are in excess of the preceding year. The Juvenile Missionary Society is also well sustained, nearly \$500 having been raised during the year. The report refers to the great loss sustained in the death of the senior pastor, the late Dr. Taylor, who during so long and successful a ministry labored in the congregation. The various societies connected with the church, as also the Sabbath school, appear to be in an encouraging and prosperous state.

## Book Reviews.

WIDE AWAKE. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. The number for May sustains the well-earned fame of this young folks' magazine. The illustrations are very beautiful; the frontispiece, entitled "The Children's Moving Day," being specially attractive. The stories and other articles are as usual simple and interesting; and they all have a tendency to bring out and cultivate the reader's best feelings.

TRIAL OF REV. W. C. McCUNE. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co. Price, twenty-five cents.

This pamphlet contains the process, testimony and opening argument of the prosecution, with the vote and final minute of the Presbytery in a case which has attracted a good deal of attention throughout the United States and elsewhere. Our readers have already been furnished with an account of it in our issue of 18th ult. In the publication which we are now noticing, there is only one side of the case presented. The reason of that is that the testimony and argument for the defence have appeared in daily and weekly issues of the religious and secular press, while the testimony and argument for the prosecution now appear in print for the first time.

BELFORD'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

The number for May contains chapters xiii.-xv. of "Nicholas Minturn," by Dr. Holland. The characters are natural, the events are probable, and still the interest is sustained. The article by *Canadensis* under the heading "Colonial Chapter in the history of American Education" is valuable to the historian, and instructive to the general reader. Its aim is to prove, from the writings of American authors, that the present educational organizations—lower and higher—of the United States, originated, not under Republican government, but under the old Colonial regime. One notable fact which forms part of the argument is that "In the early colonial times, before the revolution, there were nine colleges established in seven out of the thirteen colonies." The remaining contents of the number are varied and interesting.

THE COMPLETE PREACHER. New York: The Religious Newspaper Agency. Price two dollars a year.

This is a new monthly publication containing sermons by some of the most prominent clergymen in the United States and other countries, and in the various evangelical denominations. The first number is now before us, and if the selection of preachers continues to be as good, or nearly as good, as it is in the present number, the subscribers to it will certainly have made a good investment, considering the low rate at which it has been placed. A good many of our readers will be convinced of the truth of this statement as soon as they see the following list, and that is all we can make room for at present; we may possibly give extracts in a future issue:—"The Gospel of Mark"—Theodor Christlieb, Ph.D., D.D.; "The Church—Office of Elder"—John Hall, D.D.; "The Unknown God"—J. F. Newman, D.D.; "The Prevalence of Sin"—Archibald Campbell Tait, D.D.; "Character Building"—John A. Broadus, D.D., LL.D.; "Christ the Destroyer of Death"—Charles H. Spurgeon.

A VINDICATION OF THEOLOGY: An Address to Theological Students, by J. Clark Murray, LL.D., Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, McGill College, Montreal: Dawson Brothers, 1877.

This is a vindication of the rank which theology claims among the higher spheres of intellectual labor. In its present form it is dedicated to the theological students of Montreal; but it was originally written seventeen years ago, as a valedictory address at the close of the author's academic curriculum in Edinburgh. Its publication at the present time was called forth by some recent utterances in Montreal depreciating theology as a science. The address is replete with thought, eloquence and learning. It conclusively demonstrates that there is no proper reason why even men gifted with the most powerful intellects should turn aside from the study of theology as if it were something to be despised. On the contrary it shows that there is no other science which presents such a field for the full exercise of all the intellectual faculties, or that is of so much value in enabling the student to thoroughly master other departments of knowledge and to comprehend their relations to each other.

PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY AND PRINCETON REVIEW for April.

There are twelve Articles in this number, all of them good in their several points of view, and well entitled to careful perusal by thoughtful readers. This number fully sustains the character of this periodical for talent and literary power. There are several of the articles of special practical value:

1. "Problems for educated minds in America in the new Century." While these problems call for particular consideration in the great Republic by all its citizens who desire its true prosperity and progress, they equally concern the mental and moral well-being of our own Dominion. 2. "The perpetual authority of the Old Testament";