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Note and Comment

Principal Grant will address the teachers of Carleton County in May next on "To Read and Write, the End of a Liberal Education."

The late M. C. Cameron, Goderich, lieutenant-governor of the North-west Territories, in his will donated \$1,000 for a Gaelic scholarship at Queen's. It will be called the M. C. Cameron scholarship.

Arrangements are now completed by the Knox College Literary and Theological Society for their annual "At Home" to be held in the College on Friday evening next. The affair is in good hands and is an assured success.

The Senate of Knox College, Toronto, have made arrangements with Mr. J. W. Bengough, so well and favorably known throughout Canada, to deliver two lectures each week on elocution. Much interest is being taken in the lectures by the students.

Rev. Dr. Thos Hall will not succeed his father, the late Rev. Dr. John Hall, as pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, for he has accepted the chair of Christian Ethics in the Union Theological Seminary, which was vacated by the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs.

Herman Warsawiak, a Jewish missionary, who caused so much trouble in the Fifth Avenue Church, New York last year, and who is well known in Toronto, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the clerk's office of the United States District Court. He places his total liabilities at \$29,167, of which \$27,592 is secured to creditors.

The Knights of Columbus, a national Roman Catholic organization, voted lately to refuse membership to liquor dealers. This order secures life insurance benefits to the wives and children of its members, and its action is an indication of the efforts made in the Catholic Church to free that body from the imputation resting on it that it favors the liquor traffic and is to a considerable degree supported by it.

Japan has an income tax, and what is more, the payment of it is enforced. If any taxpayer complains that he is rated too high by the officials he is likely to be put into a dark room and told to "think it over carefully." After remaining there twenty-four hours in darkness and doubt, the man is then very likely willing to admit with the officials that he is somewhat richer than he had at first supposed.

One of the most serious features in the liquor traffic, says the Christian Leader, is the extraordinary prices being paid all over Scotland for "licensed premises." In Dundee the other day a licensed place in High Street—not by any means an imposing building—was sold for £12,700. The shop and flat cost £8,000, and the balance is given for goodwill. The licensing laws of the country require to be drastically reformed in the interests of the very life of the nation.

A series of Inter-collegiate debates have been in progress among several of the leading literary societies of the different colleges in Toronto. So far they have been very successful. On Friday evening, December 8th, College Chapel, Victoria University, was filled to overflowing to hear the subject: "Resolved, that the Present condition of the Industrial Classes is due more to the Employer, than to the Employee," discussed by representatives from Victoria University and Knox College. Messrs. R. H. Bell and J. W. Davidson appeared as affirmative speakers from Victoria, and Messrs. W. J. Knox and Hugh Munroe, of Knox on the negative side. Both sides were maintained with much spirit and along lines that showed careful preparation. The referees were Principal Boyce of Osgoode, Professor McKay and Mr. D. R. Willie, who unanimously agreed to give the decision in favor of Knox College.

The marriage is announced of Dr. Wilfrid B. Mowat to Miss Claire Embury at Crown Grace, North Dakota. The bridegroom is a son of Rev. A. J. Mowat, pastor of Erskine Presbyterian Church, of Montreal, who some time ago settled at Waltham, North Dakota, for the practice of his profession. Many friends, here and elsewhere, will wish the young couple much happiness and ever-increasing prosperity in their far western home.

The Interior remarks: "The Universalist Leader is inclined to concede the claim of the moderator of an Iowa Presbytery that Adam was a Presbyterian, and therefore the right to 'charge up against Presbyterianism all that has gone wrong in the world.' This fancy of our brilliant contemporary is right in the face of Scripture. Where Adam made his fatal mistake was in listening to the first Universalist sermon: 'Thou shalt not surely die'—and straightway, acting upon Universalist doctrine, he 'brought on all our woes.'"

There are now about 350 public libraries in Great Britain, says Science. These libraries contain over 5,000,000 volumes and issue about 27,000,000 books each year. The annual attendance of readers is about 60,000,000. In comparison with these figures, the following, recently published, will be interesting: There are 844 public libraries in Australia, with 1,400,000 volumes; 298, with 330,000 volumes in New Zealand; 100, with 300,000 volumes, in South Africa. In Canada the public libraries contain over 1,500,000 volumes.

A correspondent in Scotland writes as follows on the position of Presbyterian Psalmody: "It is sad that our Sabbath Psalmody is getting to such a low ebb, while at the same time musical education is steadily advancing. In many cases the decay of congregational singing is due as much to apathy as want of ability—in fact, it is as much a religious question as a musical one. The people who can sing will not. Another cause of decline is the large number of uninteresting tunes which we have to sing. Whatever the defects were of the old repeat tunes, the people sang them heartily, and enjoyed them. German chorales are too much in evidence in our Presbyterian books."

A correspondent (R. B. L., Montreal) writes: Can any of your readers supply the name of the author of a metrical paraphrase of the 137th Psalm, which I learned nearly 50 years ago out of an old hymn-book used 70 years ago in St. Peter's Church (now used as the Cathedral), Liverpool. I quote the first and third verses from memory, and shall be greatly pleased if any reader can supply the second, fourth and fifth verses:

1. By proud Euphrates stream we lay
And wept our captive hours away;
While on the oser banks unstrung
Our tattered harps neglected hung.
3. Oh! how shall captive hands aspire
To wake the consecrated lyre?
Proclaiming to a tyrant's ear,
The song Jehovah deigns to hear.

Dr. Robertson Nicol, at a meeting commemorating the 150th anniversary of the C. C.'s 12th Chapel in Birmingham, said that the first business of the preacher to-day was to aim at the conversion of souls, not to edify the saints. He rarely heard a gospel sermon nowadays. Ministers seemed to be glad for granted that all in their congregations were converted. If they did they make one of the most lamentable mistakes possible. It is imperative that those who present the ultimate spiritual alternative should realize and preach that no outward respectability or morality, or blamelessness of life can take the place of the radical heart-changing demands of the essential condition of entrance into the kingdom. We sometimes forget that the announcement of this condition was made, in the first place, and with all impressiveness of manner, to one who was a leading religious rabbi. Preachers can do no better than repeat the same message in the same manner, and to the same people.

Manitoba College has lately received accessions to its list of students in the persons of a Swedish, youth and two Galicians. The former speaks English fairly; the latter, Russian, Polish and German, but as yet they know very little English. They are, however, intelligent youths and fairly well educated. The attendance of these three students is due to the efforts of Dr. Robertson, and to the keen interest he takes in foreign settlers in the Northwest. The hope is that, when educated, these young men may be missionaries to their fellow-countrymen who are coming in increasing numbers.

During the recent famine in India the people prayed before their idols for rain. The following incident is narrated of the people of Aurrangabad, in western India. "The Hindus had hired Brahmin priests to keep up their noisy worship before the village idols and fully expected abundant rain as the result of their worship. But after waiting for days and weeks they resolved to punish the gods, who had received costly offerings without giving them the looked-for blessing in return. In some places they indignantly besmeared their idols all over with mud, and closed up the entrance of the temple with thorns. In others they filled up the temples with water and blocked up the doors, so that the idols may shiver in wet as a punishment for keeping their fields dry."

Notwithstanding the severe storm on Monday, December 5th, a pleasant meeting was held at Alvinston in connection with the Sarnia Presbyterian Association of Young People's Societies. A number of important subjects were discussed and it was decided to raise funds for the support of a missionary in the home field, who would be specially connected with this association. The evening meeting was held in the handsome new church (Guthrie Church) which has been erected during the Ministry of the present pastor, the Rev. W. G. Fortune. At this meeting the Rev. D. McIntyre presided, and addresses were delivered by Rev. W. G. Jordan (Strathroy), A. Graham (Petrolia), and A. L. Budge (Maclean). The choir rendered efficient service and solos by Miss McKenzie (Glencoe), Miss Love (Petrolia), and Mr. Douglas (Alvinston) were much appreciated.

The Pointe-aux-Trembles Mission Schools put forward a claim for support by prayer and contributions to their funds, based upon a statement of work done in the past, and proposed to be done in the future. The pupils are boys and girls whose average age is 15 1/2 years; the subjects taught are reading, writing, drawing, music, singing, geography, history, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, French, English, Latin, Greek, natural philosophy, book-keeping, Bible. It is hoped that a few years in the schools will elevate the ideal of the 100 pupils taught there, create in them a sound ambition, a desire for self-reliance, a spirit of enquiry and independence which will open before them a broader career than can be looked for elsewhere; and that many of them will not only acquire intellectual achievements which will render them more useful to the country, but that they will become faithful servants of the Master; and that, on leaving the school, they will cheer their parents by their improved behaviour, their progress, their message of grace from the Heavenly Father; that they will surprise their neighbors by their honesty, their good habits, their fearless attitude toward the enemies of the Bible, their intelligent patriotism and their efforts to help those who are desirous of improving their situation. On these grounds the schools base their claim to the support of Christian people and our churches generally. Contributions should be addressed to the Rev. Dr. R. H. Warden, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

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