

British American Presbyterian

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT TORONTO, CANADA.

TERMS: \$2 a year, in advance. POSTAGE by mail, 30 cents per year, payable at the office of J. Jeffrey.

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be drawn in favor of the Publisher. Club Rates and List of Premiums furnished on application. All who are desirous to aid in extending the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN should send for the List of Premiums at once, as now is the time to secure new names.

C. BLAKEETT ROBINSON, P.O. DRAW 2461 Publisher and Proprietor

British American Presbyterian

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1874.

MINISTERS' HOLIDAYS.

This is the season in which all who can, seek, in changes of scene, recreation and health. The sea coast, the lower St. Lawrence, our upper lakes, and the "back country" have all their quotas of pleasure or health-seekers now. Fashion and enfeebled health combine in drawing crowds from their accustomed duties to the enjoyment of the much-prized holidays. In commercial circles a season of relaxation for those of sedentary habits, or who are called to close application of mind, is considered well nigh an absolute necessity. It is rightly viewed as much an economic as a sanitary usage for both the heads and the subordinates of important departments of business to have annual release for a week or two from accustomed work. It is found unprofitable, as well as physically wearing, to go on year after year without some cessation from work.

In cities and towns it is quite an established practice for our ministers to have a month or so of release from their wonted ministrations. On the one hand, they are supposed to require, after months of arduous and anxious working, change and rest, and on the other, congregations understand that the resting time is productive of more effective work in the future. Beecher, as he rusticates on his farm on the Hudson, cut loose from his Plymouth church cares, is quite as much preparing for a richer campaign of work as repairing his wasted energies.

For all ministers we advocate a summer holiday. We mean a genuine release from accustomed work. Most of them need it no matter whether they live in town or country, whether they have too little bodily exercise or too much. It is the feeling of relaxation from duty that is needed and the pleasurable sensation of a short respite from the ever returning weekly discourse. With how much greater spirit does the mechanic or day labourer face his work on the Monday morning than on Saturday! So of wider circles in regard to those whose mental energies are supposed to be ceaselessly engaged.

It is a wise condition imposed on some ministers by their congregations, that during their vacation they shall leave preaching alone; wise, in that they must rest as intended; and wise in that they may have opportunities not only of mixing with other minds, but of having the rare privilege of being "hearers of the Word." It is disastrous, we believe, to many clergymen, that they so seldom can listen to the Gospel. We do not doubt that they by their own appeals can foster their sanctification; but it is better still for a few weeks to enter into other conditions, and to see the "word" as it were from a different angle. It is a fashion in some city schools for the teachers of each school to visit the others in order to get fresh ideas of educational work, and to lay in, doubtless, a store of new enthusiasm. We think ministers can benefit by the same practice, and while holidaying, if they will learn of others, and catch some fresh spur to devotion by the word or spirit of some brother, our congregations would all pronounce it a profitable scheme to give their ministers a month's holiday. Herbert Spencer, in a recent work, maintains that frequent repetition of Christian doctrines does not conduce to growth of Christian feelings. Whether this be so or not, the very statement even by such a critic as he is, together with the supposed relish with which our reverend brethren do listen to the Gospel from other lips, should make the practice universal of giving, independent of the health side of the question, our pastors an annual vacation time.

We observe from the Albany Journal that the degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred by Union College in N. Y., on the Rev. John James formerly of Paris, West Flamboro' Presbyterian Church, for a long time vacant, has given a call to the Rev. Mr. Benson, from New Jersey, and it is expected he will be settled in October. Salary \$800 and a manse.

The Rev. David Mitchell of New York, preached last Lord's day in the Bay Street Presbyterian Church. He is said to be a preacher of great ability.

SAD ACCIDENT.

It is our painful duty to chronicle a sad and terrible accident on Lake Ontario, viz., the loss of the yacht "Foam" with her whole crew. About ten days ago she started from this city bound for Niagara. During the passage the weather became boisterous and the unseaworthy craft is supposed to have capsized and sunk at once, being ballasted with about four tons of iron. The greatest suspense reigned for a number of days, until all hope vanished by the discovery of the sunken yacht within three miles of the Niagara shore. And on Tuesday last the drear certainty culminated as to the fate of the seven young men by their bodies being washed ashore on the American side of the lake. The bereaved households one of whom has lost two sons, have the deepest sympathy from the whole community, and it will be a wholesome though poor compensation for the sad tragedy, if greater care in the management of such means of pleasure be observed. It would seem necessary to have some inspection of such vessels, similar to larger ones, so that repetitions of such disasters may probably be less frequent. In many Churches last Lord's day, the sad event was noticed, and it is for us to hope that by the sudden death of those seven young men, not a few may be profitably impressed by the fact of life's uncertainty.

Ministers and Churches.

The Rev. Mr. McKerracher was ordained on Tuesday night in Knox Church here, as a missionary to Prince Arthur's Landing. We heartily wish him God speed in his labours in that distant outpost and shall be glad to hear of the great success of his mission.

The Rev. R. H. Warden and Mrs. Warden left Bothwell on Saturday, 10th inst., for a trip on Lake Superior. They sailed per steamer Ontario from Sarnia. We understand Mr. Warden goes up to visit the Missions on Lake Superior, and will be absent about three weeks.

The basement at the Scotch Presbyterian Church Detroit was the scene of a very pleasant social gathering on the evening of the 16 inst., it being the occasion of the congregation bidding farewell to their esteemed pastor, the Rev. George M. Milligan on the eve of his departure for his summer holidays. Mr. Milligan goes to the seaside and his congregation surprised him with a handsome little purse containing \$200, with which to defray the expenses of the trip, and is showing their appreciation of his zeal and ability as a gospel minister.

We are sorry to learn that the Rev. Wm. Graham, who has for so long a time been pastor of the C. P. Church, Egmontville, is going to leave, having received a call from a congregation in the county of Bruce. Mr. Graham has many friends, and no enemies, in this part of the country, as his kind, genial, loving manner has endeared him to all. Mr. Graham is an earnest preacher, and in prayer is particularly fervent and powerful. On the whole the Presbyterian Church of Canada has had few like him, though the prime of his days are past, and his intellectual powers and fire are not what they were. The morning and noonday of his life have been spent in the service of his Divine Master, and so, it seems, will the evening of his life. We hope he may be able to say like a good old man of old, "I have been young and now I am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."—Stratford Beacon.

A Preference for Plain Words.

The Church Journal has a very definite opinion of the man who abuses words. We take the same view of him that Shakespeare holds against the wretch who fails to be stirred by the concord of sweet sounds, as will be seen:—

"In response to inquiries about communications, we would say that whenever we read in a communication the words, "a talented sermon," or "your talented paper," we read no farther. The communication goes into the waste-basket.

When we meet the expression, "the demise of our late Bishop" (meaning his death), we turn sick, and that communication drops from our nerveless hand. When another correspondent tells us that "in a probable eventuality" a certain thing will occur, we feel as if we did not care for a great while afterward about his parish or himself.

And when another tells us that "yesterday a remarkable occurrence transpired (meaning happened or occurred) in our parish," it makes us feel as if we never want to hear from that correspondent any more.

There is a paper lying this moment at our feet, dropped there in a sudden spasm of sickness, in which a correspondent undertook to tell about "a recherche altar-cloth." What is a "recherche" altar-cloth?

Will our correspondents consider these things? A man who will use words like the above is not to be trusted. There is no telling of what meanness he will not be guilty of.

Ordination Services in Knox Church.

MISSIONARY FOR THUNDER BAY.

A respectable congregation assembled in Knox Church, on Monday evening, the 20th inst., to be present at the ordination of Mr. D. McKerracher.

On the platform were the Revs. John M. King, M.A.; R. Wallace, John Cameron, Mr. Monteith, Mr. Reed, Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Robb, Mr. Gray.

The Rev. Mr. Gray, of York Mills, entered the pulpit, and first gave out the 107th Psalm, commencing—"Praise God, for he is good." He then offered a short prayer appropriate to the nature of the service they were about to perform, and supplicating the divine blessing and assistance. He then read from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chap. viii., from the 16th verse. The congregation again sang from the 48th Paraphrase. "Let Christian faith and hope dispel the fears of guilt and woe." The Rev. Mr. Gray then preached a very suitable discourse from Luke viii., 22nd verse—"Now it came to pass," &c. The preacher said the storm here spoken of was typical of the troubles of the disciples, and foreshadowed the history of the Church in future, and it may be also taken as setting forth the course of the life of every Christian, inasmuch as he can enter life only through tribulation. But the promises of the Gospel were sufficient for the Christian's faith. From what he had read, the following division might be made: First, before the storm; second, the storm; third, quelling the storm; fourth, the effects of the storm. The preacher remarked on the circumstances of the disciples before the storm, and that it was not nor could be thought their duty to consider whether there was danger of a storm. To the faithful thought of the duty was the chief thought. At this moment the Lord was asleep, even in the midst of the storm. He slept. There was a lesson and instruction in this, for it pointed that the Christians should take relaxation, and seek sweet repose in the strength of the Saviour, and so rest through the troubles of the night. Then came the storm, and He in whose power was all the storm and the power of the winds was asleep in the stern of the ship. Still their fears arose. This storm had an incident unlike that of another storm. But they had been learning to trust in the Saviour, who does not give a heavier burden than can be borne. The preacher described the experiences both of a branch of the Church of Christ and of an individual in that chastening which is a witness of His love. He mentioned instances of this kind, and also of missionaries in the cause of Christ who had suffered many hardships on the call they had accepted. Those who go down to the sea in ships see wondrous things, and so also those who enter into the holiness and depth of God's work behold the wealth of this life. The preacher described the situation of the sea of Galilee, lying among sheltering hills, and said it might appear to the disciples that they have a safe and prosperous voyage to the other side. And so the Christian might think that, because at one time all within is quite an assured, there was no danger; but worldly affairs, of which any one of the many called misfortunes might cast him down. But though cast down, he would not be dismayed, for the help of the Lord was ever with him. Then when the storm broke around they cried on the Master. It might be they only appealed to Him as a sort of recognition of His power. But they did cry and supplicate as men in the extreme of terror. And so, if a believer does still trust, he may pray for help, as they did. Then the Saviour awoke, and when He had said "O, ye of little faith," and rebuked the wind, and all was quiet and tranquil again, they felt the full strength of Him who saved them. Christians now should also often hear the question, where is your faith? This faith of the true follower of Christ Jesus was dwelt upon in full explanation, and on its necessity. Then we saw the wonder that was created among the disciples and the mariners. This was the second time they had been filled with fear and had been saved. The first time they had felt fear of the storm; this time they felt awe at the display of power they witnessed in the calming of the sea. They had seen the Saviour perform miracles before, but then the circumstances now were such that they could not forbear wonder. This was the case with Christians in all time, as when some new experience of God's Providence fills the mind with fear and wonder, like those which come into them; and in every event Christ's power was ever ready to save and take to Himself all who really and sincerely trusted in His love.

Then the congregation sang the 111th Psalm. The Rev. Mr. King addressed the assembly on the subject of the Missions on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The supply of ministrations was only during the summer season, and the people felt it a great hardship to be deprived thus for a large portion of the year. At a meeting in the month of April last, the grievances of these settlers were heard, and the Committee made an application to Mr. McKerracher, and he accepted the call, which was submitted to the General Assembly and by them sent to the Presbytery of Toronto for their final approval of his appointment as a missionary to Prince Arthur's Landing. The Presbytery, then, on this evening were met to give effect to this appointment by the ordination of Mr. McKerracher. The Rev. Mr. King said thus much explanation was necessary to be given, so that all should know what was being done and what was the object.

The Rev. Mr. King called up Mr. McKerracher, and put the questions that are properly here put, and to which the responses were satisfactorily made. Then Mr. McKerracher knelt, and Rev. Mr. King offered the dedicatory prayer, and the assembled ministers at the proper moment placed their hands on the young minister. At the close of the prayer, the newly ordained minister that as he had now made this profession, it would be expected of him that he would give his soul to the work. He advised him also in his preaching to abide "supply by the word of God, in its perfect truth and unspeakable preciousness.

True justifying faith puts the soul (as sensible of his lost condition by the law) upon flying for refuge unto Christ's righteousness which righteousness of his is not an act of grace by which he makes our obedience accepted with God for justification, but His personal obedience to the law in doing and suffering for us what that required at our hands. This righteousness true faith accepteth, and by it presented as spotless before God, it is accepted, and acquitted from condemnation.—John Bunyan.

Also would he need to give daily heed to the cultivation of personal piety, which gave power to the work of ministry. It was not out of place to speak of personal conduct. No man was raised above the temptations of sin, even by being invested with the office of the sacred ministry. He would bear this in mind, that what was counted venial in other men, was held a reproach in him. He counselled the young minister to gather within himself all Christian graces, and lastly exhorted him never to fall into the habits of a man pleaser, whereby he might give offence to God. The address was of a very impressive character, and produced a deep impression on the congregation.

A psalm was sung; after which the Rev. Mr. Wallace addressed the meeting, giving an account of a visit which he made five years ago to the neighborhood of Thunder Bay, when the necessity of mission work was made very plain and steps taken to make provision for a regular ministrations of divine service according to the wants of the Presbyterian settlers in that country. Mr. Wallace went on to point out that pushing further westward new fields were offered, first in Manitoba, and more distant in British Columbia. He hoped in conclusion that when Mr. McKerracher might call for assistance on the friends in Toronto, to assist in building their Church at Thunder Bay, they would freely and bounteously respond. He added in a few words how much they added to the Church's work, and they in prosperity would not fail to stretch out a helping and friendly hand to those of their own Church who were less able to maintain their religious services in that distant part of the Province.

The psalm was then sung "Now blessed be the Lord our God," the Rev. Mr. Robb pronounced the benediction, and the meeting was closed.

Presbytery of Guelph.

The Presbytery of Guelph met, according to appointment, in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on the 14th of July. The following is a brief report of the proceedings. Mr. Wm. Millican was chosen Moderator for the ensuing year, and took the chair accordingly. Committees were appointed to arrange for the preaching of Missionary sermons, and the holding of a S. S. Conference in Galt. The Commissioners to the General Assembly present, reported their diligence in fulfilling the duty assigned them. Mr. Mackenzie was introduced as a candidate for the ministry, and a Committee appointed to confer with him, on whose report, at a subsequent stage, it was agreed to apply to the Assembly to have him enrolled as a first year's student in theology. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. McGregor applied to be received as Catechists, when the report of the Committee to whom their application was referred, was given in, and a motion was carried that they be commended to the special oversight of Messrs. Bentley and Goodwillie, ministers, and Messrs. Lutz and Lee, ruling elders, till next meeting of Presbytery. The list of vacancies, supplemented congregations and mission stations was arranged for the year. Notice was read of Mr. McGuire's induction at Jarvis and Walpole, on the 12th May, and Mr. Anderson reported that he had in the usual form declared the pastoral charge of Glenallan and Holm vacant, as appointed by the Presbytery. Four students, Messrs. S. W. Fisher, G. G. McRobbie, J. Campbell, and R. Watt, were, by permission of the Assembly, taken on trials for license, and having gone through these to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, were duly licensed to preach the Gospel. The reference from the Kirk Session of Cotawold, involving charges against Mr. Neil Currie, one of the probationers of the Church, was again taken up, and after long and careful deliberation, Mr. Currie agreed to retract in the fullest and most explicit manner all the statements made against Mr. Adam Douglas in his letter to Mr. Malcolm McEachern, said retraction to be in Mr. Currie's hand writing, and to be read to the congregation at Cotswold; and the Presbytery recorded and conveyed its censure on Mr. Currie for the course he had pursued in this matter. It was resolved that the congregation of St. John's, Garrafraxa, be requested to accede to the arrangement for the supply of Waidemar by Mr. Millican in the meantime. Mr. Reeve, at his own request, was heard by the Presbytery, and craved permission to lay upon the table his resignation of Rockwood and Eden Mills on the ground of declining health. The Presbytery approved of the remit of the General Assembly on extending the representation of the Church in the Supreme Court so as to embrace all the Ministers and Elders on the Roll of the various Presbyteries as the time of meeting next year. Sessions and congregations were enjoined to have their returns to the remit on Union in, at next ordinary meeting. The Committee appointed to examine the plans of the church to be erected at North Luther declared themselves satisfied with the same. Mr. McKay reported that he had moderated in a call at West Puslinch which had come out in favour of Mr. A. G. Forbes, of Keniloss and Berrie. The call, signed by seventy-nine members, and one hundred and seventeen adherents, with reasons of translation, and both papers were laid on the table, and the clerk was instructed to take the steps usual in such cases. The clerk reported the amount of supply for the quarter and the distribution he had made of the same, which was approved. Application was made by Mr. Doornor in behalf of several members belonging to the German Reformed Church, Preston, to be taken under the care of the Presbytery. A committee was appointed to visit the place, make all necessary inquiries, and report at next meeting.

Will you say that there are no real stars, because you sometimes see meteors fall, which for a time appeared to be stars? Will you say that blossoms never produce fruit, because many of them fall off, and some fruit which appeared sound is rotten at the core? Equally absurd is it to say there is no such thing as real religion, because many who profess it fall away, or prove to be hypocrites in heart.—Payson.

Presbytery of Paris.

The Presbytery of Paris met within Knox Church, Woodstock, on Tuesday the 14th July. Mr. McQuarrie was appointed to preach and moderate in a call for a minister of East Oxford Congregation. The congregation of Norwich and Windham were cited to appear for their interests in reference to the call from Knox Church, Winnipeg, to the Rev. James Robertson, on Tuesday the 14th day of August, within River Street Church, Paris. The Rev. Mr. Howie requested that the documents transmitted to him by the General Assembly, with a view to his reception as a minister of the Church be returned him as soon as possible, and the clerk was instructed to return said documents, as soon as they came into his hands. It was agreed that the Remit on Union as sent down to Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and Congregations, be considered at next regular meeting and also at the same meeting, the Remit in reference to an enlarged representation of the Assembly of 1875. The Kirk Session Records of St. George, Dumbo and Princeton, and Knox Church, Woodstock, were examined and found correctly kept.—Wm. Cochran, Presbytery Clerk.

Presbytery of Cobourg.

This Presbytery met at Cobourg on the 7th of July. Mr. Lochead was appointed moderator for the ensuing twelve months. The congregation of Port Hope requested to be allowed to dispose of the manse which is found to be too small. The request was granted on the understanding that the money obtained by the sale of the property be not diverted to any other purpose than the purchase or erection of another manse. The clerk reported that he had moderated in a call at Perrytown and Oakhill. The call was unanimously in favour of the Rev. W. Hodnett and was found to be signed by fifty-six communicants and thirty-six adherents. Commissioners from the congregations appeared and stated that they would raise \$400.00 by way of salary together with a manse. The call was sustained, and it was agreed to hold a special meeting of Presbytery at Port Hope on the second Tuesday of August at three o'clock in the afternoon to dispose of the same. The clerk was instructed to renew the application to the H. M. Com, for a grant to Perrytown and Oakhill of \$160.00. Mr. McKay was appointed to give two Sabbaths supply to the mission stations of Chandos and Burleigh, and to dispense the sacrament of the Lord's supper at the places, arranging if possible to be in the field on the first Sabbath of September. Mr. Lochead was appointed to dispense the sacrament at Minden and Brown's Station; Mr. Paterson at Kinnmount; and Mr. Clark at Lakefield. A scheme of assessment for the Presbytery and Synod Fund was appointed. The Presbytery agreed to approve of Union on the Basis sent down by the General Assembly, and to instruct congregations and sessions to report upon the same at or before the next regular meeting of Presbytery which was appointed to be held at Millbrook on the last Tuesday of September at 11 a.m.—W. Donaldson, Pres. Clerk.

Presbytery of Huron.

This Presbytery met in Goderich on the 7th and 8th July. Mr. George D. McKay, a young man prosecuting his studies with a view to the ministry; having undergone examination, was ordered to be certified to the board of examiners of Montreal College. The session records of Seaforth, Goderich, and Thames Road congregations were examined and ordered to be attested as carefully, and correctly kept. The records of Ashfield, Melville Church, Brussels; Knox Church, Brussels; Cranbrook, Egmontville, McKillop No. 1, and McKillop No. 2; Brucefield, Exeter, and Wroxeter were called for next meeting. A call was produced from Pine River, in the Presbytery of Bruce, in favour of Mr. Graham, Egmontville, certified as being unanimous and hearty. The stipend promised is \$600, with a manse, said stipend to be paid quarterly in advance. A special meeting of the Presbytery was appointed to be held at Senforth, within the Canada Presbyterian Church, on the 22nd July, at 2:30 p.m., for the purpose of disposing of said call. Mr. Barr was appointed to preach at Egmontville on Sabbath next, to cite the congregation to appear for their interest at the above named meeting of Presbytery. Mr. Thomas Thomson, Student, having undergone his trial examination, was licensed to preach the Gospel. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Loask and Young, ministers, with Messrs. Jackson and Agnew, elders, was appointed to consider the financial and statistical returns for the past year, and to draft a deliverance to be brought in at next meeting. Messrs. McCuaig, McLean, and Ross were appointed a committee to examine Students. Mr. McCuaig read the Home Mission report, when it was agreed: 1st. That the missionaries be continued in their respective fields for the next three months. 2nd. That the clerk be instructed to write to Cranbrook congregation, requesting them to pay the claims of Mr. Tuomson. 3rd. That Mr. William Christie be sent to McKillop No. 2, on July 19th and 26th, and that the convener write to one or more of the probationers sent to Presbytery, informing them that there is a supply on hand for all our vacancies, and in the event of their finding employment elsewhere, to send Mr. Thomson to McKillop No. 2. Mr. Goldsmith tendered his resignation of the Moderatorship of the session of McKillop No. 2, which was accepted. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Goldsmith for his efficient services, and Mr. Ross was appointed Moderator of said Session in his place.

Will you say that there are no real stars, because you sometimes see meteors fall, which for a time appeared to be stars? Will you say that blossoms never produce fruit, because many of them fall off, and some fruit which appeared sound is rotten at the core? Equally absurd is it to say there is no such thing as real religion, because many who profess it fall away, or prove to be hypocrites in heart.—Payson.