

# The Canada Presbyterian

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The Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co.,  
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, 1896.

THE Venezuela difficulty has been referred to arbitration. The lawyers will fight it out and the rest of us may stay at home and give thanks that the battle is to be only one of words. We hope the men who shouted for war last Christmas were largely among the citizens who got snowed under on the 3rd.

WE hope in next issue to present an interesting sketch of mission work among the Indians in the North-West, condensed from the report of a conference of missionaries engaged in that work, held in Winnipeg in the early part of this month, at which a large number of missionaries and others took part, and some valuable papers were read.

IF the Ottawa Government is inclined to be atheistic in its programme, as our neighbor, the *Globe*, says all Governments are, the new Senators for Ontario should help to keep the programme on orthodox lines. Senator Mills is a man of high character as well as of great ability, and Senator Cox is perhaps the most influential lay Methodist in Ontario.

THE following sentence from President Cleveland's thanksgiving proclamation would seem to show that the head of the Republic has not forgotten his Shorter Catechism:—

And let us, through the mediation of Him who has taught us how to pray, implore the forgiveness of our sins and a continuance of heavenly favor.

That is a real good sentence and will make good wholesome reading for the Unitarians of New England.

THE death, which took place suddenly on Saturday last at St. Andrew's Manse, of this city, of the Rev. Dr. Smellie, who had reached the advanced age of eighty-five years, will come to our readers as a surprise. We shall hope soon to give a brief sketch of the deceased. His decease removes another of the few now remaining links which connect the present with the days of the early pioneers of our Church to whom it and the country owe so much of all that we most highly prize. His death, following at so short an interval that of his daughter and son-in-law, the late Mrs. Macdonnell and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, will anew draw forth for the bereaved family and friends the warm sympathy and sustaining prayers of the whole Church.

OUR good friends, the *Herald and Presbyter* and *The Interior*, admonish us kindly but with great faithfulness for saying that President Cleveland has more brains than the candidates who were running for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency all put together. The *Herald and Presbyter* says we ought to be able to admire the work of "a great man without disparaging others equally

great." We failed to see any other equally great. *The Interior* says our remarks were "invidious," "unkind," and "severe." Positively we did not intend to be any one of these naughty things. Our opinion was formed by reading the speeches, state papers and other literary work of the President, and confirmed by the splendid appearance he made the other day at Princeton. Being high-class newspaper men, our western friends will not deny that a man's literary work is a good test of his culture and brain power. When anyone of the half dozen who were in the running makes as good an appearance as Cleveland made in Princeton before one of the most learned assemblages that ever met on this continent, we will revise our opinion. The revision may come about the same time as the revision of the Confession of Faith that our friends began to work on a few years ago and gave up in a hurry.

WE could hardly conceive of a better way of giving to every family in the Church that will read it, a bird's eye view of the whole foreign mission work of our Church than is contained in the last leaflet sent out by our Foreign Mission Secretary, Rev. R. P. Mackay, entitled "Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in a Nut Shell." By his previous short sketches of different mission fields packed with the latest information, and filled with a missionary spirit, Mr. Mackay has rendered the Church and the Foreign Mission cause a signal service. This last leaflet, embracing the whole field of our foreign work, is simply a marvel of condensation and makes ignorance of this branch of the Church's work simply inexcusable on the part of any who honestly wish to know about it. A copy of it should be put into every family in the Church. The few sentences at the close, quoted from missionaries telling of the effect of cutting down estimates for the year 25 per cent., should go straight to the heart of every reader, and ought to be the means of taking away this reproach from the Church, and of reviving the hope, and courage, and faith of our missionaries. Besides giving pain and disappointment to our missionaries, this course must have been a most painful one for the committee to take, and it is to be hoped that it will be so felt by the whole Church as to enable it very speedily to retrace this backward step.

THE season for circulars on all subjects is upon us. While some must go straight into the waste basket, it is to be hoped that none from our Church authorities will meet that fate until action has been taken upon them. The H.M. Committee has just issued one through its Convener, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, to which we ask attention. It states that last report to the General Assembly showed 419 missionaries and catechists, 354 mission fields, 1,044 preaching stations, 15,604 communicants, and 11,633 families under the care of the committee. A small balance was left on hand last year, through the aid received from British churches. The amount contributed by Presbyteries falls far short of the requirements of the committee, and a strong plea, which it is hoped will be duly laid before every congregation, is made for increased contributions if the work is not to be seriously crippled. The closing sentence will, we trust, be put before and take hold of the mind and heart of every member and adherent in the Church: "Unless individual ministers do their part, and congregations endeavour conscientiously to reach the amount allocated to them by Presbyteries, the result will be disappointment and suffering to the hundreds of missionaries and families under the care of the committee, and disastrous to our cause in the vast North-West mission fields." This great work of our Church will surely be among the first to show the effect of the better times which, it is generally believed, we are entering upon.

THIRTY-THREE years ago *The London Advertiser* started upon its mission of enlightenment and instruction, and just the other day this third of a century of publication was marked by a banquet. About the board were gathered a number of the more distinguished of that journal's graduates, prominent among these being the Hon. David Mills and Mr. J. S. Willison. Mr. John Cameron, the founder of the paper, and, during an exceptionally honourable and useful career, its guiding mind, occupied the chair. It is not our

intention to dwell upon the speeches made, although they were of sufficient excellence to deserve extended comment. We merely wish to add our little meed of praise to the universal approval accorded the *Advertiser* as an outcome of this auspicious celebration. Nor was this chorus of approval in any wise overdrawn or unmerited. No journal within our knowledge has adhered so steadfastly, or for so considerable a period, to lofty ideals—has advocated and upheld all that is best and purest in the body politic with greater tenacity—than has the *Advertiser*. Personally Mr. Cameron is one of the most genial of men, a man of unquestioned probity, and possessed of instincts thoroughly journalistic. Endowed with a style which stands almost alone in Canadian newspaperdom for directness, lucidity and grace, he, combined with those other qualities already mentioned, has been greatly favoured by natural gifts in building up a solid and influential newspaper. Mr. Cameron has infused into the columns of the *Advertiser* a reflection of his own personality, and it is owing to this fact that we have in the foremost publication of Western Ontario a memory of the palmy days of journalism when distinguished editors wielded a direct influence upon their constituency.

## DOMINION WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION CONVENTION.

AS we have already quite recently called attention to the work being done by the W.C.T.U. on the occasion of the meeting lately in Pembroke of the Ontario convention of this society, it is not necessary so soon again to go over the same ground, especially as the work of the Dominion Convention is really the same, only on a larger scale, as that of the Provincial Convention. But our sense of the importance of this Association as one of the great uplifting agencies of our day, of the work it is engaged in, of the need and the beneficence of it, and our high regard for the noble women whose thought and energies it engages, are all such that we could not allow the Convention of the Dominion W.C.T.U. which last week closed its sessions in this city, to pass unnoticed. Special reasons added interest to the meeting this year. These were the approaching plebiscite over the whole country on the question of prohibition, the presence of Miss Agnes T. Slack, secretary of the world's W.C.T.U., and the decision of the place of meeting of the Convention of the World's W.C.T.U., to be held next year in Canada. The Convention was an important one and called forth a large amount of public interest, which was shown by an attendance at the meeting on Sabbath the 8th inst., which quite filled the Horticultural Pavilion with an enthusiastic audience, whose attendance was well repaid by the excellent addresses given by Rev. H. C. Dixon and Miss Slack, who treated the subject in a manner both most interesting and powerful, and also by the large attendance at the meetings on Monday and Tuesday evenings, as well as of delegates and the public during the day.

The questions, we may just mention, which were most prominent at the Convention were those of the approaching plebiscite on prohibition, purity, health and heredity, the use of the press, legislation, the use of tobacco and the growth of cigarette smoking by the young, woman's franchise and Sabbath Observance. On all these important action was taken after full and intelligent discussion. That on the plebiscite and prohibition, as being of the greatest immediate practical interest, may be expressed in the language of Mrs. Dr. Youmans, of Manitoba, in answer to the questions, "How are we to meet it? What are we to do?" "I answer, educate. From now until the plebiscite is taken sow broadcast the living seed of knowledge. Let us permeate our educational campaign with prayer. Let no one excuse herself. The promised plebiscite is a grand opportunity. Let us work for success. Not in political lines. Let all temperance organizations, including the Dominion Alliance, work under a union national committee. Let there be but one plank in the plebiscite platform." This entirely agrees with what we have ourselves already said. Let everything possible be done to educate the public sentiment and conscience up to not only voting for prohibition but carrying it out when legislation is obtained.

Toronto's quiet Sabbath was greatly appreciated and praised, and resolutions passed in favour of Sabbath Observance as we now have it, of extend-