

PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK & ALMANAC.

Edited by
REV. JAMES CAMERON, CHATSWORTH, ONT.
122 pp. 25 CENTS.

The Argonaut says: "The Year Book is in its second issue, and shows improvement even on the excellence of the first. It is, in a word, a wide-spread boon for Presbyterians, and ought to be in the hands of all belonging to the Church, especially its office-bearers."
The Christian Guardian (Methodist) says: "This is a pamphlet of over 100 pages, giving a large amount of valuable information concerning the Presbyterian denomination of this country. Interesting papers are contributed by Dr. Kemp, on 'Colleges for Young Ladies,' by Dr. Patterson, on the 'New Hebrides Mission,' by Dr. Snodgrass, on 'Queen's University and College,' and 'From Union to Union,' by Rev. Robert Torrance. Additional to the information given respecting the several Presbyterian sects, will be found from the united Church in the Dominion of Canada, valuable statistics are furnished of Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, in the United States, on the continent of Europe, in Australia, etc. The chapter on 'Union' is particularly readable; and, as the record of a memorable year in the history of Canadian Presbyterianism, the 'Year Book' for 1876 will find a permanent place in the history of this country."

Will be sent FREE to any address on receipt of price.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
Toronto.
Drawer 24-1.

British American Presbyterian.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1876.

THE PREMIUM PHOTOGRAPH.

We have not yet exhausted the stock of photographs on hand, and shall continue sending them out in the order in which we receive subscriptions until further notice. If our readers will kindly make mention of this fact, it will be serviceable to us, and help the circulation of the paper.

NOT TO BE CAUGHT.—ARCHBISHOP LYNCH AND MR. MACKENZIE.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop has again been gratifying his passion for appearing in the public press. This time he writes not about the Fathers or the True Church, but graciously to inform the Premier, Mr. MacKenzie, and through him the people of the Dominion, and of the Province of Ontario especially, that he "thinks this an opportune time to inform us that the priests in his Archdiocese are strictly forbidden to make the altars or pulpits of their Churches the tribune for political harangues for or against any party or candidate for election, or to threaten any spiritual disability for voting with either party." It is very kind of the Archbishop to give us this information, but the fact that he should think it opportune to give it just now, or indeed to give it at all is not a little suggestive. Has the happy state of matters he now tells us of not always existed, and is this a new departure which has just been entered upon? Is it because in the Province of Quebec an amount of clerical influence in elections prevails at this moment that is alarming all good and truly patriotic men that he seeks to reassure us in Ontario. If the course of Archbishop Lynch is right, and we thoroughly believe it is, then it is the strongest condemnation of that of Bishop Bourget and his advisers; if the latter are right, as we have no doubt they think themselves, then they must blame his lordship as being a very half-hearted Roman Catholic. Can this assurance of the Toronto Archbishop be given to draw our attention to, and put us upon our guard against the very opposite course being pursued in Quebec? Or is it intended to lull us to sleep and quiet all alarms in Ontario until the work is done there, when we have no doubt the field of battle will be moved to this Province, and a different course entered upon. We are not to be caught napping or to be misled, even by the assurances of an Archbishop. We fear our Roman Catholic dignitaries and leaders most, when they are apparently the most polite and profusely liberal. The interests of free speech, and of the fullest civil and religious liberty in one Province cannot be severed from the same interests in any other. We shall have reason to thank the Archbishop, if his letter fasten a more close attention throughout Ontario upon the high-handed proceedings being enacted by the hierarchy in Quebec. It is the boast of Romanists that their system is one, penetrated by one spirit, and directed always under all guises to one great end. When we look at the Continent of Europe, at the United States, at the sister Province, and see everywhere a policy pursued by the Romish Church the very opposite of that which Archbishop Lynch assures us is adopted in his diocese, it is impossible for us to get up our confidence, even when encouraged by his high authority. We fear that this letter is but a blind, and if it is not we know too well that when the time comes Archbishop Lynch will be obliged to fall into line with all the rest, and carry out the course followed by his Church always and everywhere to advance her own sinister designs. His is

only one of the thousand disguises Popery assumes to gain its ends. It is one thing in Ontario, another in Quebec; begging and scheming in the United States, intolerant and persecuting in Mexico; fawning and patronizing in England, dictatorial and insolent in Spain; but everywhere, under every different external appearance, pursuing steadily, sleeplessly the same great game to become predominant, and to build up its own power upon the ruins of every other. The history of the Romish Church is too well known and is too black to allow us to be misled by the patronizing assurances of a letter from even a kindly Archbishop. Indeed his assurances of non-interference are qualified by one statement which goes far to nullify them that "priests may, of course, instruct their people on the conscientious obligation of voting for the candidate whom they judge will best promote the interests of the country." This is so much done, every one knows, and priests, owing to the general ignorance of their people, have them so thoroughly under their control, that a politician, anxious to secure the Roman Catholic vote, has for the most part only to make terms with the priests, who again, even in Ontario, in the diocese of Archbishop Lynch, must act strictly according to directions received from headquarters.

In this way the statements made in the letter alluded to become almost valueless as matters of fact. The power is simply exercised in another way, but still almost as effectually as if the altar or pulpit were made a tribune for political harangues, and members were actually threatened with spiritual disabilities if they don't vote for the person or party, the priest, or in other words the Archbishop and his advisers recommend. All this is too well known to admit of denial.

"The Roman Catholic Church," it is said, "asks no special favour from any party." On the contrary its history has been that of always asking favours. Scarcely has any important or test election ever taken place but that the Roman Catholic vote has had to be purchased by granting some favour or other, and if the secret political history of the Dominion could be known, much more of this has been done by both parties than outsiders generally have any idea of.

To other statements of this letter we give the most cordial assent. We believe, and it would be well if all our ministers acted upon the belief, that a minister of religion needs all the "influence he possesses to forward the interests of his whole congregation," without lending himself as a partizan to any political party. We thoroughly agree that the profession of the Roman Catholic faith, or of any other, can of no faith at all, should not be any bar to the fullest and freest enjoyment of all civil and political rights and privileges. If our Roman Catholic fellow citizens will only be satisfied with that, we shall strenuously contend for it, but we shall just as strenuously contend against their getting anything more, and despite Archbishop Lynch's soothing assurances, shall not cease to watch and expose all undue use of clerical influence to do so.

THE NEW LICENSE BILL.

This measure came up for a third reading on Monday last. Several attempts were made to secure some amendments in the bill. We pass no opinion whatever upon the motive of those who proposed them, but we regret that the proposal to limit shop licenses should not have been entertained. There is scarcely any part of the traffic about whose evils public opinion is so unanimous, but the Government has declined to take any responsibility directly in dealing with it. Mr. Clarke of Norfolk, who opened the campaign in the Legislature with such a gushing speech, kindly took it upon him to say that "temperance people were satisfied with the bill as it stood," and at the close of the debate was as kindly patted and complimented by Mr. Crooks for what has been really his obsequiousness to the Government in all its dealing with this subject.

Now that it is passed, we may present, a more full analysis of the measure as a whole than we have yet done. The one point in it with which we are specially interested is, to what extent does it impose restrictions upon a traffic which a vast majority in the country, including many who are engaged in it, and many of its victims agree in condemning?

Looking at it in this light, the first, and by far the most important provision, is that which removes the granting of licenses, and the duty of inspection, wholly out of the hands of municipal bodies, and places it in those of commissioners appointed by the Government. This can hardly fail to work better than the method which has been abandoned, which was confessedly an utter failure for the most part. Much, however, will depend upon the character and faithfulness of these commissioners. If they can be clearly proved to be remiss,

there should be no difficulty in procuring their removal, and good men being put in their place.

The next important provisions of the bill, in the light in which we are regarding it, are those which respect the limitation of the number of places where liquors are to be sold. These may be classed under the limit of population, the amount of bond and duty required from those who get license, and the character of the dealers. The limit of population we have already mentioned, namely, one tavern for every two hundred and fifty in places of 1000 inhabitants, and under, for places which have over that number, one for every four hundred. When we exclude children and youths who do not need these places of resort, and reflect that they are intended mainly for the travelling public, that the reasons which have caused this legislation are to remove as far as possible from our midst a dangerous temptation and a source of crime, we still believe that the proportion of taverns this measure allows is too great, and that one more stringent in this respect could as easily have been carried out as that under consideration. And even this degree of limitation has drawbacks. In cities for the year ending April 30th, 1877, the number need not be reduced more than one-fourth of those at present in existence. In any place where it appears to the satisfaction of the commissioners, a large increase of population has taken place since last census, the number may be increased provided only that it does not exceed the limit fixed by law. The first of March, or before, is the day fixed for application for license, but for special reasons, if the proper officers see fit, licenses may be granted after that date. The skilful application of these powers by commissioners who are easy-going will make sure that the number of taverns in any place will not fall below the minimum.

The powers of limitation vested in councils are strongly dwelt upon by apologists for the government measure, but for the most part this is in reality just so much conceded to the liquor interest. If the councils have so utterly failed to do their duty in the past, how can any limitation be expected of them in the future. They can prescribe whatever accommodation they choose more than the law requires, they can limit the number of shop licenses, they can require that those shopkeepers who obtain license sell nothing else but spirituous liquors, the kind of accommodation and mode of carrying on the traffic. But all this, we fear, is only so much dust thrown in the eyes of the public by the government, or an attempt to do it. If the most unscrupulous means have been taken before this to pack councils in the interest of the liquor traffic, how is it to be prevented in the future? In still leaving so much in their hands, after all but universal condemnation of shop licenses, and after Mr Crooks himself charging municipal bodies with being too lax or altogether derelict in their duty in the matter of licensing, why should dealing with shop licenses be left to them?

The amount of bond and duty for license have also reference to limitation. Both, we should think, and the latter especially is too small. With the appropriation of the monies arising from these we have little fault to find. We should think it better that municipalities should derive no profit whatever from the liquor traffic. Councils may increase the duty but there will not be many cases of the kind we suspect.

The character of the applicant for license as being a man of good repute may also affect the number of taverns to be kept in any locality. It is intended to operate partly in this direction. Everything almost in this respect will depend upon the commissioners. We have no doubt that if those engaged in this business were asked for an opinion, all would say they considered themselves men of good repute. The kind of good repute needed to qualify a man to engage in selling whisky as a common drink is of so very inferior a sort that the limitation on this ground, of places where men are lured to their own ruin, and made a danger, burden, and curse to society must be small indeed.

As however the measure is now passed, it lies especially with temperance men to watch its operation, and especially to bring all their influence to bear upon securing the right men for Commissioners, and in every case where they do not carry out the law, seek their removal as soon as possible. We believe this measure is a step in the right direction, and because it is but a step let temperance men still continue the good work of agitating this subject, enlightening and educating public opinion, and when the time arrives again, appeal to the legislature for another and further advance in this great work of social reform.

Mr. INELTS, 51 Bleury St., Montreal, publishes a Key to the General Assembly Picture. It is a small pamphlet of 32pp., and is furnished for 21 cents. Address as above.

Ministers and Churches.

The Rev. Mr. Pantou, formerly of Lindsay, has received and accepted a very unanimous call from the Bradford and West Gwillimbury congregations.

DURING a recent visit of Mr. W. J. Smith student, to the Mono Mills congregation, he was invited to a Social, and presented with a purse containing \$24 dollars in token of their appreciation of his services during the past summer.

On Monday evening the Rev. Prof. McLaren delivered a highly instructive lecture in College Street Church, on "Man and his Dwelling Place." There was a large attendance. The proceeds were in aid of the building fund.

We see it announced that the new St. Andrew's Church, corner of King and Simcoe Street, will be opened next Sabbath. Services will be held as follows:—At 11 o'clock, Rev. R. Campbell, M.A., of Montreal; at half past 3 o'clock, Rev. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College; at 7 o'clock, Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., of Ottawa.

On Thursday, the 3rd inst., Mrs. Currie's Bible-class in Napier presented that lady with a valuable tea service and a purse. Mrs. Currie's class is of a very interesting character. It numbers over forty young women, who spend one-half of each Thursday afternoon in studying the Holy Scriptures, and the remainder in receiving instructions in needle work. The valuable donation was accompanied by a very kind and grateful address.

The anniversary services of the Presbyterian congregation of Ailsa Craig were held on the 30th and 31st January. Sermons were preached on Sabbath to crowded audiences by the Rev. D. McDonald, of Westminster. The afternoon service was in Gaelic, and was very highly appreciated. Many had come a long distance in order to be present. On Monday evening the annual soiree took place, when the Church was filled to overflowing. Selections from Sankey's songs and solos were sung by the choir, and addresses of a highly instructive character were delivered by the Revs. G. M. Milligan, of Detroit, D. McDonald, of Westminster; J. Calder and G. Jackson, of Ailsa Craig.

On the evening of the 19th ult., quite a crowd of members of St. Andrew's Church, Kincaidine, took possession of the manse, organized in the parlour, and under the chairmanship of Mr. James McPherson, kind speeches, very complimentary to their pastor, the Rev. Wm. Anderson, M.A., were made; and thereafter, Mr. Martin, on behalf of those present, presented Mr. Anderson with a purse containing nearly \$100. The rev. gentleman, although taken by surprise, managed to return thanks in appropriate terms. We are always pleased to chronicle these kind of incidents; showing, as they do the cordial relations subsisting between pastor and people.

We have before us the eighth annual report of St. John's Presbyterian church, Almonte, in which the session have to report a gratifying increase to the communion roll. The membership now stands at 191. The Treasurer's report shows the following figures:—

Congregational Fund.....	\$1810 85
Building Fund.....	274 95
Missions, Sabbath School, &c.....	340 98
Total.....	\$1926 28

During the active and zealous pastorate of the Rev. Wm. McKenzie this congregation has grown very considerably; and we have no doubt, with the Divine blessing, prosperity, temporal and spiritual, will continue to mark its future.

On the evening of Sabbath 23rd January, an Ordination Service was held in Cook's Church—the congregation having previously elected to the eldership Mr. William Rennie and Mr. John Hannah. Mr. Rennie had been for several years an elder in Markham, and Mr. Hannah is one of the most faithful teachers in the Sabbath School of the congregation. The Pastor, Rev. J. Gardner Robb, B.A., preached ably and clearly, setting forth and defending Presbyterian Church Government. After which Mr. Rennie was inducted, and Mr. Hannah ordained to the office of elder. Rev. Professor Gregg was present and took part in the ordination; after which he addressed a few very appropriate and impressive words to both elders and people.

The Union Presbyterian Church, Goderich Township, one of the congregations under the pastoral care of the minister of Knox Church, was opened on Sabbath, 30th Jan., 1876. The opening services being conducted by Rev. J. C. Smith, Hamilton, and Rev. James Sieveright. At all the services the Church was crowded. On the following evening a very successful soiree was held—over 300 people were present. Addresses were delivered by Rev. J. C. Smith, J. Goodspeed, and J. Sieveright. The choir of Knox Church, Goderich, delighted the audience by their effective rendering of several choice pieces of music. The Church is a neat frame building,

capable of seating comfortably 200 people, and has cost over \$1,200. The whole proceeds of the opening service amounted to \$300, leaving a debt of about \$250. This is the fourth Presbyterian Church erected in the neighbourhood of Goderich within the past five years.

On the 4th inst., a large number of the members and adherents of Streetsville Presbyterian congregation took possession of the manse, and after a sumptuous repast provided by the ladies, besides many substantial tokens of good will to the pastor and his family brought to the manse, Mrs. R. Barber, in the name of the ladies of the congregation, presented Mrs. Breckonridge with a handsome sum of money as expressive of respect to herself and family. Mr. Breckonridge made a suitable reply, acknowledging with thanks the many instances of kindness shown to himself and family during his pastorate, some of a private and some of a public character, and which seemed to be becoming more numerous year by year, and he regarded these not as a mode of implementing a meagre stipend as is sometimes the case, but as a spontaneous proof of a sincere and growing attachment. After complimentary addresses by Messrs. Spence, Steen, and Dr. Woods, a reading by Mr. Browning and music by the ladies, the friends withdrew well pleased with their evening's enjoyment.

The entertainment in the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evening was well attended, the Church being crowded to its utmost capacity. The programme for the evening consisted of music, speaking, presentations, and last, but not least, a good supply of oysters. The Rev. Messrs. Waddell and Wood made short, but very interesting speeches, both for young and old; after which a committee of ladies supplied the audience with refreshments. When they (the eaters) got through with the eatables, Mr. McRobie took the platform and called the audience to order; he made a short but laughable speech, after which, in a few appropriate remarks, he presented Miss Bella Bell with a Gold Watch, Bible and Psalm Book, purchased by some of the congregation upon hearing that she intended leaving town, and to show her how they appreciated her services of the past two years. Mr. James Lawson took the platform next, and with the necessary remarks presented Mrs. McRobie with a black walnut sideboard and an eight day ornamented clock, and Mr. McRobie with a three-story cake, all of which was from the ladies of the congregation. The Rev. Mr. McRobie returned thanks to the ladies, both for his wife and himself. We have still another to mention, and that is a purse well filled with the "needful," which was presented to Mr. Boulter, Janitor.—*Petrolia Advertiser.*

A very interesting meeting of young persons and a few of the parents connected with the Presbyterian congregation of Mount Pleasant, took place on Friday evening, 4th inst., at the boarding place of the Rev. Thos. Alexander. After enjoying a comfortable supper provided by the young people, a presentation was made to the pastor of a pulpit gown, accompanied with an address expressive of their respect for him as their pastor, and gratitude for his faithful services among them, as also their hope that he would be spared to wear it for years to come. The address also contained an expression of their wish and prayer that his partner might be restored to her usual health and spared among them. To the address Mr. A. made a suitable reply, in which he expressed the pleasure he had, at this advanced period of his life, after labouring in the Lord's vineyard for over forty years, in receiving this renewed token of their esteem and regard. He considered it as an evidence that he had not altogether laboured in vain, and felt encouraged to continue to preach the same Gospel he had always done, so long as God gave him grace and strength. He thanked them also for their kind wishes and prayers on behalf of his partner. After the singing of a few hymns, reading of the Scriptures, and prayer, the company dispersed to their several homes, delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

The annual tea meeting of Palmerston congregation was held in the new stone Presbyterian Church, on Wednesday evening, the 29th December, at 6 o'clock. Tea was served in the basement, which is admirably adapted for the purpose; and the supply of bodily refreshment was quite abundant, as the ladies look well to this feature of such meetings. After tea, the company gradually found their way upstairs, till the entire body of the Church was quite filled, when temporary seats had to be made in the passages, which were also soon occupied. The speakers were the three resident ministers of Palmerston, viz.:—Bible Christian, Episcopal Methodist, and Canadian Methodist ministers. But, besides these, who all congratulated the congregation on the solid substantial Church they had built, as well as expressed their cordial regard for the minister, Rev. D. Anderson, the meeting was also addressed by Rev. Mr. Blain, of Clifford; Rev. Mr. Macmillan, of Mount Forest;