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**The Canada Presbyterian.**

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th, 1892.

HAD Edward Blake been in the Imperial Parliament last year, London would have had three distinguished Canadians in prominent places—Dr. Donald Fraser and Dr. Munro Gibson in the pulpit, and Mr. Blake in the House of Commons. Canada seems to be a good country for men of brains and eloquence to emigrate from. What can the reason be? Are our ideas on Church matters so narrow and contracted and our congregations so exacting that men like Dr. Gibson and Dr. Donald Fraser escape when they get a chance? Is our political life so nasty that men like Edward Blake cannot endure it? A prolonged diet of self-examination on these points would not do us any harm.

OUR neighbours over the way have a decided weakness for Presbyterian candidates. President Harrison is a Presbyterian elder or deacon, and formerly belonged to the New School. His theology is probably broader than his ideas about trade and commerce. Cleveland is also a Presbyterian, but of the Old School. He is a minister's son, and has a sister in Syria the wife of a Presbyterian Foreign missionary. When a mere lad Grover Cleveland lost his father, and he left his law studies to earn money for the support of his widowed mother. Whitelaw Reid, the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency, is a Presbyterian of Covenanter stock. We have not learned what denomination Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for the Vice-Presidency, belongs to, but would not be surprised if he also is connected with the Presbyterian fold. Dr. Douglas would find part of the text of his annual sermon gone if he lived over there.

THE proposed removal of St. Andrews West to a different site is a matter that concerns chiefly the congregation and the Presbytery to which it belongs, but it is also a matter in which many Presbyterians far beyond the limits of the city and Presbytery of Toronto take considerable interest. For about twenty years St. Andrews has been a representative Church. Money has flowed from its treasury in a steady, copious stream towards every good cause. Its pastor has been a central figure in more than one sphere of religious activity. Presbyterian strangers from any part of the continent staying over Sabbath in Toronto are very likely to go for one service at least to St. Andrews. Move or not move, we hope nothing will be done that will in the least degree impair the efficiency or disturb the harmony or lessen the liberality of the congregation. Had it not been for St. Andrews and a few other large-hearted congregations, the Augmentation Fund, one of the most deserving in the Church, would have gone to pieces long ago. The congregation have stood nobly by their pastor in his

efforts to brighten the homes of our poorly-paid ministers. Move or no move, may St. Andrews prosper.

THE American Presbyterian Church is conspicuously able to take care of itself and take care of the truth as well. A year ago Patton and Princeton influence were blamed for the deliverance given in the Briggs case in Detroit. Neither Patton nor any other professor in Princeton was in the last Assembly, but the Assembly was quite as conservative as its predecessor of a year ago. Ecclesiastical leaders, called "wheel-horses" over there, were also censured severely for the Detroit verdict, but the "wheel-horses" were conspicuous by their absence in Portland. The Assembly of this year was composed almost exclusively of new men, but Dr. Briggs had no more defenders than he had a year ago. The fact is, the American Presbyterian Church is the most conservative member of the Presbyterian family. There are so many varieties of the ecclesiastical mollusk over there that the orthodox people find it highly necessary to keep their vertebral column stiff. The fence is so high that nobody can sit on it with any reasonable amount of comfort and consistency. Our neighbours know their own business and attend to it promptly.

THE offer of a seat in the Imperial Parliament to the Hon. Edward Blake has attracted great attention. The hon. gentleman has regained his health, and it is said by those who ought to know that he is not unwilling to devote his time and his splendid ability to legislative work. Is there no room and no work for him in Canada? Have we such a superfluity of parliamentary talent in this country that Canada's greatest man must waste his time and strength on Chancery briefs or enter the political arena in the Old Country? A large number of fairly-well informed citizens are of the opinion that this young country needs all the statesmanship we have and would be none the worse for a little more. It may be quite true that the electorate of Canada, and especially the electorate of the party with which Mr. Blake was formerly connected, are not easy to serve, but we think they will compare favourably with the Home Rulers of Ireland. Mr. Blake has good reason to believe that his countrymen are not conspicuously grateful for his eminent services, not to speak of the sacrifices he made during the years he served in Parliament, but what public man in Canada was ever loaded down with tokens of gratitude?

THE General Assembly has appointed the Rev. R. P. Mackay, of Parkdale, to the office of Foreign Mission Secretary. We bow loyally to the decision of the Supreme Court and will do all in our power to assist the new official in the discharge of his responsible duties. The majority should rule, and though the names of other good men were mentioned in connection with the office, the new Secretary will no doubt be given a fair opportunity to justify the good things said of him by his friends in the Assembly. We are willing to believe that he will act faithfully and impartially in the discharge of his official duties, and will continue so to believe unless the contrary is shown. The office will be no sinecure, and the new Secretary will require, and has a right to expect, all the assistance that can be given to him by the friends of Foreign Missions. Foreign Mission work is not the easiest kind of Church work to manage successfully. The brethren who were not appointed may well congratulate themselves on the fact that they have escaped from responsibilities that bring no small amount of worry. We hope the new departure may be the beginning of a new and highly prosperous era in our Foreign Mission work.

THE dismissal of Elgin Myers, Q.C.—if he is dismissed—from the position of County Attorney and Clerk of the Peace in Dufferin County for an alleged political offence, is a matter on which there is ample room for difference of opinion. Mr. Myers distinctly declares that he favours continental union by and with the consent of Her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial Parliament, and on no other terms. When Her Majesty says, go, my children, Mr. Myers would go. He would marry politically, but not until his Sovereign blessed the banns. Just why a man holding these views cannot be trusted to prosecute offenders for breaches of the Crook's Act or of the Orangeville Cow by-law, the average Ontario elector may not be able to see clearly. The list of "Sirs" in Canada who were avowed annexationists when about the

age of Myers is truly formidable, and includes such dignitaries as Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir John Rose, Sir Alexander Galt, Sir John Caldwell Abbott, the present Premier, and a number of other men more or less distinguished for loyalty. One thing is clear. Should Mr. Myers be dismissed, his dismissal will secure to him and his cause an amount of attention that never has been given under ordinary circumstances. For one man who would go to hear Mr. Myers as County Attorney, ten will go to hear him as a County Attorney dismissed.

THE fact that the General Assembly by working at high pressure speed for eight days and putting on a lively spurt on the last day was able to clear off the docket is no reason in the world why the Supreme Court should not unload itself and send a lot of business to the Synods. If all the time is needed and is barely enough for old business there is no time for new measures of any kind. In a young country like ours new conditions are constantly emerging and the Church machinery ought to be adjusted occasionally to meet these conditions. Any attempt to introduce fresh legislation on any subject is at once met with the cry—no time. Well, the Church must just make time or suffer. Some of the most important business often comes up at the last minute and is rushed through at railroad speed. A sederunt might well be given to the question of supplying vacancies, another to Dr. Torrance's statistical report and a third to questions that are forcing themselves on the Church in regard to outside organizations of one kind and another. We hope the committee on division of work among the courts will soon get to work and do something effective.

THE *British Weekly* is somewhat of a pessimist in regard to ecclesiastical meetings. They sometimes lead, our contemporary thinks, "to rancour, and resentment, and the repelling of multitudes from religion." These are strong words, but one contemporary suggests a "palliative," and that is the giving of an entire day to devotional exercises:—

If the great day of every gathering—Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian—were the day of Christian testimony—the day on which morning and night the whole business should be witnessing for Christ—who can doubt that the whole tone of these meetings would instantly be raised, that ministers and people would receive a powerful Christian impulse, that spectators who, with all their not unmerited contempt for ecclesiastical matters, do nevertheless cherish a deep, dumb reverence for Christ, would cease to scoff, even if they did not pray? Who can doubt that this would calm the vehemence of feeling, and help men to look at blind fury as they have to look at it when the tempest of passion roars itself by, and a tide of self-reproach rises and overflows the soul?

Undoubtedly there is much force in all that the *Weekly* says on this most important subject. Church courts are rarely, if ever, a spiritual tonic. How is it that the worst side of a minister's character is always seen in the ecclesiastical courts? The *Weekly* commends the Scotch elder who prayed that the "General Assembly might be guided to do as little harm as possible." Probably this elder was a friend of the man who said he had attended Church courts for a quarter of a century and he thanked God he was still a Christian. It is more than time that these assemblages had begun to consider the effect their deliberations produce on outsiders.

MR. BLAKE, some of his friends say, goes to the Imperial Parliament to explain the working of the federal system of government in Canada. What will the honourable and learned gentleman say about it? Will he tell the British legislators that in working out the federal system every province save Ontario has got into debt, and that Quebec is making frantic efforts to keep from bankruptcy by the most drastic kind of direct taxation? Will he tell them that when the federal system was in operation about twenty years, prominent Canadian politicians and grave divines felt compelled to form themselves into an Equal Rights Association to protect their civil and religious liberty against Jesuit aggression, Parliament having failed, as they thought, to protect them? Will he tell the British House of Commons that instead of becoming more British, we are adopting some of the worst features of the American system, notably the practice of bleeding contractors, high protective tariffs and the gerrymander? Will he say anything about the "death-like apathy" in public opinion which he told the electors of Durham had come over our people under the federal system? Even Ontario, the only province in the Dominion paying its way,