

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

—PUBLISHED BY THE—

Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd.

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, - TORONTO

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The Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
5 Jordan St., Toronto.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND, 1895.

NOW just keep quiet and watch the fathers and brethren while they do most of the very things in selecting a professor for Knox College that they blame congregations for doing in selecting a pastor.

ATORONTO paper says that the Parkdale case was presented to the Synod "purely as a matter of business and the spiritual aspect of the question was not touched." The case had no distinctly spiritual aspect; but all the same it is a great pity that the press ever gets a chance to make remarks of that kind.

ONE of the counsel in the great criminal trial, Mr. E. F. Johnston, Q.C., did a brilliant piece of work the other day, and when he sat down was warmly complimented by counsel on the other side. A little of that kind of thing would not do the clerical profession any harm. One of the best known weaknesses of too many ministers is the habit of disparaging and belittling every thing done by brother ministers.

THE leaders in that tremendous legal battle at present going on in the Court House in Toronto are Ontario men. Mr. Osler was brought up in Dundas, though we believe he spent his early boyhood in the Township of Tecumseh, Simcoe county. Mr. Lount was brought up in Barrie. Neither ever attended college and yet they are conducting the great case with an amount of ability that leaders of any bar in the world could not surpass.

NAMES are still being nominated for the vacant professorship in Knox College. Hamilton Presbytery proposes that of the Rev. Dr. McIntosh, of Philadelphia; London and Stratford that of Rev. Dr. Stalker, as Toronto has already done; Saugeen names the Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B.D.; Orangeville, the Rev. Wm. Farquharson, B.A.; and Peterborough proposes the Rev. Dr. Denney, whose late able work is at present attracting so much attention.

THE iron grip that ecclesiastical affairs have on the minds of typical Scotchmen is shown by the fact that the most popular works of Barrie, Crockett and "Ian Maclaren" are mainly on ecclesiastical matters. The "Little Minister," the "Stickit Minister" and "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," would be nothing if the kirk and the "meenister" and the elders were left out. The elders and Dr. McLure are among the principal characters in the "Bonnie Brier Bush." The Scotchman maun hae his kirk. And by the way may not this account in a great measure for the fact that Scotland exerts an influence in the world

out of all proportion to its size and population. Early drill in the Shorter Catechism and constant contact with a strong pulpit and important ecclesiastical affairs sharpen the intellect and save the mind from that awful modern calamity—frivolousness.

THE *Interior* adorns its front page with a portrait of its managing editor, Dr. Gray. The Patriarch was absent at his retreat in the forest and the staff took advantage of him and published his picture. Tens of thousands of Presbyterians will be glad to see a likeness of the man who has furnished them with such a good paper for so many years. Dr. Gray looks a trifle older than when we last saw him; but his countenance has not lost any of its calm strength, and he can write as bright and suggestive a paragraph as he could at any period of his life. Long may he live to give tone and strength to his excellent journal.

SOME worthy brethren have been growing eloquent over the desirability of getting a man with a "name" to succeed the late Professor Thompson. "Ian Maclaren" is about the best known name in Presbyterian circles in Great Britain just now; but there is no reason to suppose that "Ian" would succeed as a professor of Apologetics. The author of the "Stickit Minister" is well-known in Scotland, but nobody there thinks of Mr. Crockett as a theological professor. It is the man not the "name" that must teach; and the main questions about any good man are: Has he a special knowledge of his subject and special aptitude for teaching it to students?

IN our editorial remarks of last week on "Home Mission and Augmentation," mention was made of "Halifax, Toronto, Montreal and other places" as having given a generous response to the appeal made to make up the deficit in the Home Mission Fund. We have learned since, what we were then ignorant of, the most generous contribution of Ottawa to this appeal. It amounted to over \$3,000 and was the most generous of all. Of this sum one lady gave \$1,000, another \$500 and a third \$300, while the Woman's Home Mission Society of St. Andrew's Church gave \$275. Miss Harmon's Ladies' School and Coligny College sent each \$10, and a servant girl gave \$10 unsolicited. Nor were the men behind.

THE brief course of lectures delivered in Manitoba College by Professor Orr, D.D., of Edinburgh was brought to a close on Tuesday the 7th. The lectures have been attended, not only by the theological students of the college, and many of the ministers of the city, but by a considerable number of the citizens of both sexes. While not popular in the ordinary sense of the term, they have been highly appreciated, evincing, as they did, wide and accurate knowledge of the systems of philosophy and theology criticised, and their defects. Besides lecturing in the college, Dr. Orr preached in five or six of the churches of the city, discussing in his sermons and addresses some very important aspects of divine truth with great ability. Altogether, both by his public utterances and his more private intercourse Dr. Orr has left a most favorable impression on the minds of the students and of the people of Winnipeg.

IT is highly improbable that a constitutional statesman and cautious Scotchman like Lord Aberdeen would undertake the thankless duty of mediator in the Manitoba school case without instructions from the Imperial Government. Many patriotic Canadians will wish his Excellency success in his attempt to solve a difficulty that Canadian statesmen seem powerless to solve. Of course there will be a cry about Downing Street rule. We cannot afford to pay much attention to any such cry. Is it reasonable to expect Great Britain to defend us with her army and navy—to expect British capitalists to lend us millions of money—to expect the British Government to endorse our obligations and do us many other favors, and then stand idly by while we endanger the credit, if not the very existence of the Dominion, by racial quarrels and sectarian strife? Newfoundland is very glad to get help from the Mother Country at the present time, and Canada might soon be in the same position.

THE General Assembly might easily do a less useful thing than lay down some working principle about the establishing of new congregations near or within the constituency of old ones. It is easy to say each case can be decided by Presbyteries on its merits. Deciding one case on its merits occupied much time in the Presbytery of Toronto, became the main feature of a meeting of Synod, and the case is now on its way to the General Assembly. Some good Presbyterian people say that the Toronto Presbytery established a congregation—not in Parkdale—some years ago, gave it leave to borrow a large sum of money and then started another congregation quite within its natural constituency. It might be well for the General Assembly to say what it understands Church extension to mean in these modern days. Dr. Chalmers understood it to mean "excavating" among the lapsed masses. In modern days it sometimes seems to mean excavating under neighbouring congregations.

ECHOES FROM THE SYNOD.

THE Synod of Toronto and Kingston is exceptionally well served in the men who take charge of its business. Dr. Gray, the veteran clerk, is a model official. His knowledge of Church law is equal to every emergency; and his urbanity and patience are never failing. Dr. Torrance, the convenor of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, discharges his important duties in a most efficient manner; and it is seldom that the order of business, as presented by his committee, is changed by the Court. Both gentlemen, in a marked degree, command the entire confidence of the Church which they have faithfully served for so many years.

While the attendance at Synod was considered good, a number of well known ministers were conspicuous by their absence. The familiar figures of Dr. Grant, the versatile Principal of Queen's, Dr. Torrance, of Peterborough; Dr. Smith, of Port Hope, Dr. Reid, of Toronto; and Dr. Grant, of Orillia, were missed from this meeting. The two last named have been ill, and although now convalescent doubtless thought it wiser, in view of the inclement weather of the past week, to remain at home.

The Rev. J. B. Mullan, for thirty-eight years the beloved pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Fergus, was unanimously elected Moderator. The choice was an eminently happy one, as the duties of the chair were discharged in a most satisfactory manner. Often, when the business seemed for a moment to get into a tangle, a witty suggestion, or a flash of humor, from the Moderator lightened up the proceedings and wonderfully aided in clearing the way for the speedy dispatch of business.

Many ministers and elders reached Orangeville a week ago Tuesday morning in a snow storm. The temperature was decidedly cool; but the commissioners to the Synod met with a warm welcome—not only from Presbyterians, but from brethren of other denominations. Arrangements for billeting were simply perfect. There was no room for complaint. To the Rev. Donald Mackenzie, our minister at Orangeville, we were indebted for this unique state of affairs. He looked after every detail himself; and a more considerate and courteous host could not be desired.

THE SYNOD CONFERENCE.

THE complaint is frequent that meetings of Church Courts are hurtful to church life. The complaint is not entirely groundless. It is true church business must be transacted and that the members cannot always be engaged in psalm singing and the exercise of prayer, yet it is also true that the rush of business, conducted not always in the sweetest temper, is depressing, and men often return to their homes and sacred duties, almost regretting that they had gone away. This can scarcely be said of the meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston of last week. Notwithstanding the fact that a church quarrel had to be adjusted, the tone was good, which is largely due to the conference held on the previous days. In all respects it is said to have been the most helpful