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The Canada Presbyterian.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 1894.

IT is easy to keep your left hand from knowing what your right does for the poor, or for the church, if the right does nothing.

IF the financial squeeze continues, some Presbyterians may be led to think that voluntarism is not all good nor endowments all bad.

WE read somewhere almost every day that the right way to be healthy and in good working trim is to "avoid worry." Nobody enlarges on the subject and tells how worry can be avoided.

THE New York *Observer* says the handwriting of its clerical correspondents is so illegible that it make the type-setters in the office shockingly profane. No doubt illegible "copy" is very exasperating, but a good orthodox office like that of the *Observer* should be proof against the temptation to use bad language. And ministers who write illegibly might remember that petition about leading people into temptation.

THE people of this country should remember that while some of them may feel the lack of money, thousands of families the world over are suffering from lack of bread. To have little money is very inconvenient at times, but it is nothing compared with being hungry. This wave of depression will soon pass over a young country like ours, and it is much to be feared that the lessons it should teach will pass away about as fast as the wave.

SO far the reports of congregational meetings do not show that any very serious effects have been produced by the financial squeeze. Toronto has been the greatest sufferer, but with one or two exceptions the city congregations have had a fairly good year. The exceptions are fighting against space, and a fight against space seems harder than a fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. In the long run any congregation will suffer more or less that has one or two rows of churches of its own denomination between it and its people.

IF Lord Macaulay were alive now he might see a more ridiculous spectacle than "the British public in some of its periodical fits of morality"—the Canadian public in one of its periodical fits of economy. Municipal and other governing bodies will go to work and cut down salaries in an indiscriminate, reckless sort of way, treating useful and useless officials in the same manner and the result in many cases will be increased expenditure instead of economy. A thoroughly good man can hardly be over-paid; a thoroughly useless one should have no salary at all. When the fit is on, however, there will probably be a general slashing all round, to be followed by increased extravagance. "The worst feature of the case is that when deserving men are treated as the undeserving, they can hardly help asking, what is the use in being useful."

THE Presbyterian Union of New York have a new and most important topic for their next meeting—"The Interior Life of the College." The discussion, says the *Christian at Work*, will not be about the curriculum, but will embrace such questions as the "social, athletic, literary and religious life of the students." Presidents Patton, Warfield and other distinguished specialists will take part. If, as we are often told, the students of this generation are to mould the next, it is impossible to attach too much importance to the interior life of the college.

There might easily be a much less useful thing than a conference of Canadian professors in the interior life of Canadian colleges. There is any amount of discussion about examinations, courses of study, degrees and matters of that kind, all very important in its place, but very little about the moral and spiritual tone of the colleges.

THE dull months of the year, February and March, are at hand. Business during these months, in most cases, is reduced to a minimum. Would it not be a good thing for solid Presbyterians who may not be overly busy during these months to give some extra time and attention to the work of the church. There is no use moping about hard times and anticipated deficits in June. Moping never does any good. The true and only remedy is more prayer, more consecrated effort and more liberality on the part of those who have the means. There is money enough in the church for all church purposes. Many give as much as they can reasonably be expected to give; some do not, and the machinery in some churches is so defective that available funds never find their way into the treasury. Prayers and consecrated business efforts are the things most needed.

IT is a great thing to be strong. The British House of Commons is so conscious of the strength of the empire that the members discuss the Army and Navy with as much freedom as they discuss Home Rule. If any member thinks the Navy is not in proper fighting trim, he says so without a moment's hesitation. If he thinks some of the most expensive ironclads are not fit to ride out a storm or ram a Russian or French cruiser, he tells the Commons so with almost brutal frankness. If an ordinary Canadian ventured to say a few of the things about the Navy that some of the tory members of Commons have been saying lately, he would be denounced as an annexationist, a rebel, and several other bad things. If a Canadian said the one-hundredth part about the salaries paid the younger members of the Royal family that some prominent Radicals say every time an "allowance" item is before the Commons, said Canadian would probably be mobbed at almost any public meeting in Ontario. The prominent Radical who talks in that way may drive with the Prince of Wales the day he makes his most violent attack on Royal incomes. Great Britain is really the only country in the world where liberty of discussion is properly understood.

DR. PATON was labouring hard in Great Britain at the close of the year, and finished a very impressive address in the following words:

"What did we find our merchants doing at this season of the year? Did we not find them taking stock to see how they stood as compared to the preceding year? And was not stock-taking as necessary in the spiritual sphere as in the business sphere? Was it not more necessary? We should all look back very earnestly over the past year, and ask ourselves what we had done with the opportunities that God had so kindly placed in our way. And with reference to the coming year we should each resolve to do some personal work for Jesus. We might say that we had no influence, but each of us had at least as much influence as the little Syrian maid who was the means of Naaman's cleansing. Let us search out some poor drunkard, and attach ourselves to him, watching over him by day and night, and never leaving him till we had been the means of his salvation. Or, if we knew some family that did not go to church, let us keep visiting that family and working with its members, till we succeed in getting them to attend church regularly. Thus would the coming year be a most fruitful and most blessed one."

If all the members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada did as the venerable Doctor urged, the church would be easily governed. There would be no time for clerical evictions, vacancies two years long and kindred evils. A direct effort on the part of the membership to be the instrument in saving souls, would make a revolution in the church within a year.

UNION PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

THOSE who wrought so hard to make the plebiscite a success and the signal victory it was, are, we are glad to see, like wise generals, going to lose no time in following up and turning to the best practical account the advantage gained. Those who have been loudly proclaiming that the plebiscite would amount to nothing and have no practical result, are ignorant of the strength and downright earnestness of those who have led the temperance hosts to victory, and will prove false prophets. Politicians of whatever party they may be, who have been willing to use the plebiscite only as a blind, or a ruse

simply to gain time, hoping that the enthusiasm on the subject would prove to be only one of those spasms of virtue which periodically come upon weak but philanthropic individuals, will get undeceived, gradually it may be, but yet thoroughly. If it has not yet got settled in their convictions that those who voted for prohibition and wrought for it meant business and not simply a display of temperance fireworks, the sooner they realize their mistake the better. If they cannot learn this lesson, they will simply be pushed aside, brushed out of the way, and the great movement will go on. It was never so hopeful as now. The plebiscite vote has helped it immensely; it has given it a momentum that nothing can withstand if only the leaders of the prohibition cause are united, firm and wise. Many will now be willing to join the cause, seeing it is likely to be a winning one, whose convictions upon the subject are not strong, deep and immovable, but affected by the popularity or unpopularity of any public question. There will be danger from this class of adherents in the ranks of the temperance organizations of the country, and in the councils of conventions. These are the men who will be willing to compromise, to be content with less than the full and legitimate fruits of victory, or to delay. Beware of them.

No better step could have been taken whereby to secure the results of the victory for prohibition that has been gained, than the one which has been adopted. This is the calling of another convention of all the friends of prohibition, such as that which was held in this city in October last, which by its numbers, by its enthusiasm, by its unity of sentiment, by its spirit and determination to work was, as we then said, a promise and prophecy of success. This second convention is, like the last, to be a "general Provincial Convention" of friends of temperance and prohibition." It is called for Tuesday, February 6th, to meet in the Horticultural Pavilion of this city, at half-past nine a.m. Very wisely the most liberal arrangements have been made for securing and inviting delegates from all kinds of organizations that may be naturally expected to be friendly to temperance and prohibition, whether distinctively temperance or not, such as churches, Young Men's Christian Associations, Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor and similar societies. Railway companies will carry delegates to and from the convention for one fare by observing certain specified conditions. The call for the convention is signed by John J. MacLaren, chairman of the Alliance Executive, and by the heads of all or nearly all the temperance organizations of the Province.

Every friend of right who may receive this "call" is earnestly urged to use his influence to make the coming convention a success. Officers of all societies are requested to bring the matter before their respective organizations; pastors are requested to lay it before their congregations; all these bodies are earnestly requested to appoint delegates to the convention on the basis hereinafter set forth; newspaper editors are respectfully requested to give it as much publicity as possible.

The plan of representation is as follows:—Every church and society to be entitled to two representatives, and each church or society having more than fifty members, to be entitled to an additional delegate for each fifty or fractional part of fifty after the full fifty members.

The following organizations are to be entitled to representation on the basis named:—

Branches of the W.C.T.U., Divisions of Sons of Temperance, Lodges of the I.O.G.T., Councils of the R.T. of T., Branches of the League of the Cross, Prohibition Clubs, any other prohibition or temperance organizations, Church Congregations, Young Men's Christian Associations, Salvation Army Corps, Societies of Christian Endeavor, Epworth Leagues, Branches of St. Andrew's Brotherhood, Baptist Young People's Unions, any other young people's associations in connection with church work; the Provincial Officers and Executive Committee of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, the Chairman and Secretary of each County, Riding, or City Plebiscite Committee, and the chairman of the committee for each municipality or Ward, to be also members of the convention.

We are glad to do our share directly in this good work, in addition to what we aim at, that the whole tone, and influence of this paper shall be unmistakably in the line of temperance and legal prohibition. Let the leaders of this most beneficent movement, so fraught with untold social, civil and religious blessings to the Dominion only come before this convention unitedly, with a well defined policy and line of action and the reward of the victory gained cannot be uncertain or long delayed.