

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1875.

Owing to the pressure on our columns this week we have to leave our editorial on "Archbishop Lynch and Mr. Mackenzie," "The New License Bill," Notices of Periodicals, and other articles.

THE LAST WORD—THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

We have been induced to grant a last word to "Presbyterian" and "Lay Presbyterian" upon the Westminster Confession. Both now are willing to make a truce in this warfare. We could not follow either, especially the latter, into all the questions raised by the series of articles now closed. We would merely remark in the first place, that in dealing with such a subject, one in which the vast majority of thoughtful people in our church feel the deepest interest, the utmost precision and definiteness are indispensable. Many, we are sure, would insist upon knowing precisely what are to be regarded as "major differences," "matters of detail," and purely "speculative and abstruse points." We suspect that any careful comparison of opinions on these questions, with a view to practical action, would disclose a very wide divergence. Until this be done, discussion must be, to a great degree, aimless.

Again, though we would not for a moment charge "Lay Presbyterian" with intentional disingenuousness, the anxiety of the writer to make out a case, leads to such a persistent representation, by implication rather than distinct statement, of what our church requires of ministers, office-bearers, and others in relation to the Confession as really amount to misrepresentation, and has the same effect as disingenuousness. Duty to our church requires that we point out such statements, and put those who may not know better upon their guard against accepting them as being the relation the church actually requires all her ministers, office-bearers, and members to stand in towards the Confession. The impression is sought to be conveyed, or at least, would most naturally be made, that the mass of our average congregations are required rigidly to hold to all the dogmas—as the writer likes to style them, of the Confession. No such thing is asked of the mass of our congregations. All that is required is the acceptance of a few of the leading doctrines of the Scriptures—a simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, attested by a Christian life corresponding to such a profession.

"A Lay Presbyterian" writes as if our Church required of her ministers the acceptance of every "minute detail" of the Confession, and hold it over them "in terrorem" to bring them to task for the slightest deviation: the representation is implicitly made that ministers whose views do not coincide with the subordinate standards in "some abstruse metaphysical point" must sever their connection with the Church. She is represented as pursuing the "exclusive" policy unwarranted by Scripture, of nominally at least, closing her pulpits against all who cannot endure every statement or theoretical opinion of those who have lived when men had less sense of the incompetency of the human mind to deal with subjects in which few would care definitely to dogmatize now." Lay Presbyterian knows perfectly well that these representations are not correct. No minister of our Church regards himself as being in such a position; and we cannot but say that one who allows anxiety to make out a case so to distort the truth is not qualified to be a guide or to enlighten public opinion upon so important a subject.

It appears to us in the last degree strange, if "Professor Young" speaks for many of our excellent ministers as Lay Presbyterian "knows." All these excellent ministers, zealous as they must be for the prosperity and purity of the Church they love, having access to all her courts, and able to bring such a weight of influence to bear upon the Church as such excellent men must command, should not as yet have taken the first step to bring this all important subject in a regular way before the Church. We fear that in this case the wish is father to the thought. We have only to say on the other hand that we have not yet met with a single minister of the Church who does not deeply regret Professor Young's letter, and condemn both its matter, the time of its appearance, and the new and strange course of procedure, which, although a member of the Presbytery of Toronto, he has thought fit to take.

Neither can we agree with "Lay Presbyterian" that notwithstanding all the practical difficulties in the way of revision of the Confession by our Church—the newly united Church to be consolidated, forms of procedure to be settled, the subject of ministerial education, home and foreign mission work pressing their claims constantly and increasingly, ministers of the lately different bodies not yet well acquainted, much less having acquired full confidence in each other—we cannot, we

say, agree with no correspondent that, in spite of all these and many other obstacles in the way, this would be a good time to begin so delicate, arduous and protracted a work as the revision of the Confession will be whenever it is undertaken. Least of all can we fall in with the opinion that, because this question has been raised incidentally, and as is said without any "premeditation," the providence of God is obliging us to do this work just now. Nor can we believe that many would agree with "Lay Presbyterian" in this view. Had this question been raised not merely incidentally, but with much anxious, thoughtful, and prayerful premeditation, had it been before the Church, which it is not at all at present, in the regularly appointed way, we should have been much more disposed to see in it a call in the providence of God to undertake the work of revision of the Confession. Important as this work in the estimation of many may be, we have not the least doubt that the overwhelming majority of our ministers and zealous workers will regard the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad, the consolidation, and bringing all the schemes and machinery of the United Church into the most efficient working condition, as far more important than the revising the Confession, and sufficient profitably to occupy all her energies for some years to come.

THE DEBATE ON THE LICENSE BILL.

This bill came up for a second reading on Monday night. While many found fault with it as not going far enough, especially in not dealing with saloons, it was generally accepted by the House as a "step" in the right direction. If the Government carries out faithfully the provision of this bill it will prepare for going farther at no distant day. The member for North Norfolk who was so loud and eloquent when presenting the petitions of the ladies showed his zeal for this good work by being amongst the most easily satisfied, and was well described as having backed down and fizzled out of the position he had formerly taken.

The former system of licensing was all but universally condemned as an utter failure, and the House generally agreed in the wisdom of the proposed new mode. The only fear on this point was founded upon political grounds; namely, the increased patronage it puts into the hands of the Government. It will we hope show its sincerity in going so far as it has done by appointing only men of character and reliability for the offices of licenser and commissioner, the more especially as they admit this provision to be the point upon which the whole bill depends.

It seems strongly to be supposed that this measure, and carrying it out, are the special business of temperance men. We contend it is one in which the welfare of the whole country is deeply concerned, and that therefore it is the duty of all to see that it is fairly carried out. As the Government declared their intention to accept of no amendment of any importance, none were offered, and the bill was read a second time.

Ministers and Churches.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, held there on the 11th January, the Presbytery, at his own request, dropped the name of the Rev. Gavin Lang from their roll of membership.

On New Year's eve, the Rev. R. Rodgers, and family, of Collingwood, were agreeably surprised by being waited on at the manse by two young lads, who, in the name of the congregation, presented them with a purse of money and other valuables to the amount of over \$100, as a token of kindly remembrance.

The Presbytery of Montreal has arranged to hold meetings next month in the various congregations within its bounds, when deputies will speak on the blessings of the union so happily consummated in June last, and on the importance and necessity for greater liberality to the funds of our Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Great good will accrue from such meetings, at least such is the mind and prayer of the Presbytery.

During the last three weeks special services have been held in the congregation in Collingwood. The pastor has been assisted by the Rev. R. Scott and the Rev. John McLean, who rendered very valuable and efficient services. Meetings were held every night, which were largely attended, and occasionally prayer meetings were held during the day. Many of the Church members have felt it to be a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and a goodly number of the young and others, have been gathered to the fold of Christ.—Con.

On the evening of the 24th ult., Mrs. White, Mrs. White and Mrs. Frazier, surprised their pastor, the Rev. J. Eadie, of

Knox Church, Milton, and his wife, by presenting Mrs. Eadie with a handsome china tea set, and the sum of \$30 cash, as a token of good will and sympathy from themselves and the friends in town connected with the congregation. This is the fourth time in so many years that these friends have devised "liberal things" for their minister and his wife, and encouragement. It is also worthy of notice that this congregation, as well as the sister charge, contributed to the list in contributing to missionary purposes.—Con.

On the 26th ult., the Rev. Edward Vincent was inducted into the pastoral charge of East Seneca and Blackheath, by the Presbytery of Hamilton. The Moderator of Presbytery presided and put the usual questions, which were satisfactorily answered by Mr. Vincent. The Rev. George Bruce, M.A., of St. Catharines, preached an excellent sermon from 2 Cor. v. 14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us." The Rev. James Black, of Caledonia, gave the charge to the young minister, and the Rev. Mr. McGuire addressed the congregation. There was a large attendance and the whole service was very impressive. The young minister received a cordial welcome from the people, and enters on his charge with every prospect of success. He was paid in advance a half-year's stipend.

The members and adherents of the "First Presbyterian Church," La Chute, P. Q., met at the residence of their pastor, Rev. Mr. Mackie, and presented him with a very large supply of provisions, etc., along with a purse; and also a purse to Mrs. Mackie. At the same time his friends from East Settlement presented him with a beautiful fur coat, worth about \$35. Mr. Mackie returned thanks in a very affecting and appropriate manner. The time passed very pleasantly till about eight o'clock, when a good and substantial tea was served to about eighty guests, the furnishings of it coming from numerous baskets which the friends brought with them. All seemed to enjoy themselves. Such occasions are useful, as they create a good feeling between ministers and the younger members of their flocks, and show the ministers that their labors are not without at least some good results.—Con.

On Sabbath, the 23rd inst., the Rev. R. Campbell, A.M., Montreal, preached in St. Andrew's Church, Huntingdon, to large audiences. His sermons were received with great acceptance. On Monday evening, the 24th, a missionary meeting was held, when the Church was crowded. The pastor, the Rev. Mr. Muir, occupied the chair. Addresses bearing on Home and Foreign Mission work were delivered by the Revs. Messrs. Philip, Watson, Morrison and Campbell. Mr. C. gave the speech of the evening. At intervals during the meeting the choir, under the able leadership of Daniel Shanks, Esq., (Mrs. Shanks with her usual ability presided at the organ,) gave some pieces with fine effect, and which were much admired by the large audience. The collections amounted to \$44. It may not be out of place to notice that since Mr. Muir's return from Scotland in July last, the congregation has contributed \$120 to the schemes of the Synod and Presbytery.

On the 4th inst. a very pleasant and successful tea meeting took place in connection with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Delaware. The Town Hall was filled with an exceptionally orderly and appreciative audience. The London St. Andrew's choir, under the able leadership of Mr. Banon, discoursed thoroughly good music to the entire satisfaction of the audience, which was expressed in frequent applause and *encores*. The chair was happily and efficiently filled by Rev. Mr. Hay, pastor, who has reason to congratulate himself on the success of the entertainment. The speakers present were Rev. Messrs. Fancher and Chambers, and Mr. John Donaldson, teacher, all of whom seemed in happy humour, both to their own enjoyment and that of the audience, and spoke well. The young ladies of the congregation and the young men did their duty nobly, for which they received a cordial vote of thanks. Heartly votes of thanks were also given to the choir, speakers, and chairman; and the success of the entertainment is indicated by the fact that the interest did not flag for a moment, though the "wee sma' hours" were nigh at hand when the benediction was pronounced.—Con.

A pleasant and profitable evening was passed by the Presbyterians of Prince Arthur's Landing and vicinity on the 20th ult. The Ladies' Sewing Society had been making preparations for a bazaar, in aid of the manse building fund, for some months previous. This in connection with a social festival was held in the lecture room of the Church on the evening in question. From the articles sold and the festival a considerable sum was realized towards the object in view. In this connection it may be mentioned that the building of the manse (which is now occupied by the missionary) cost nearly \$800, and receives the Home Mission Committee of nearly \$200 a year, they having gener-

ously decided to pay his house rent from Oct. 1st, 1875. Another event of the evening, not less encouraging than pleasing to the missionary and his wife, was the presentation to the latter of beautiful and valuable china breakfast and tea sets, with other useful articles. This episode in the proceedings took both Mr. and Mrs. McCrae completely by surprise, they being totally unaware of the pleasure that was in store for them. Altogether the evening was spent most pleasantly and profitably.—Con.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Stanley Street congregation was held on the evening of the 12th ult., and the report which was presented by the managers of the proceedings of the past year was highly satisfactory, indicating a degree of progress in the new congregation, which speaks much for the energy and fidelity of its management, as well as great liberality in the members. The fact that the membership of the congregation has nearly doubled since the advent of their pastor—the Rev. J. C. Baxter—amongst them, is indicative of the appreciation of his ministrations as well by them as by those who are in the way of hearing him.—One week later, on the 19th inst., the annual meeting of the Congregational Missionary Society was held to receive the annual report of the missionary committee, and apportion to some of the many mission schemes of the church the funds which had been collected during the year for missionary purposes. The following is a summary of what has been contributed by this congregation during the year:—Revenues for the support of Ordinances, \$3,143; for Building Fund, \$11,971; Proceeds of Soiree, \$247; for Missions and College, \$1,982; in Sabbath School for missions, \$43; total, \$27,386.

A THANKSGIVING meeting was held in the Motie Manse on New Year's day. After devotional exercises, and a few remarks with reference to the season, the pastor stated that \$4.50 had been raised by the young people for benevolent objects during the past year. Of this, they had given \$2 to the China Mission of our Church, and \$2.50 to Miss Macpherson's work. He then presented rewards to fifteen young people for proficiency in Scripture history, all of whom with scarcely an exception, manifested a thorough knowledge of the lesson assigned them. He next returned thanks for a handsome New Year's present—a fur coat which he had received the evening before—the gift of a few friends, partly residents, and partly summer visitors. A collection in aid of the Presbyterian College, and the "Washing by the River" was sung, and the blessing pronounced. Thereafter there were exhibited to the assembled friends, in the parlour, which was gaily decorated, several interesting works of art, and other curiosities, all of which were highly enjoyed. Owing to the state of the roads by reason of the late mild weather, the attendance at this was not so large as it has been on some similar occasions.

The annual meeting of the Norwood congregation was held on the 18th inst. The Treasurer's report showed the exceedingly satisfactory state of affairs which the adoption of the monthly contribution system always produces. Instead of being in arrears with their pastor's stipend, they are now able to pay him monthly in advance, and have a balance on hand besides. Notwithstanding the large amount expended on the Church property with the fresh setting up house after their ecclesiastical wedding last July, the whole has been met (except about \$25,) by the ordinary collection on Sabbath. On the following evening the annual tea meeting was held, an entertainment which the ladies have made famous by their taste and skill, and the crowded house testified to the public enjoyment of former occasions. The pastor, the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, occupied the chair, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Clarke, (Wesleyan,) and by Rev. Messrs. Duncan, of Colborne, and Sutherland, of Warwick. Other Protestant denominations were well represented in the audience, and even some Roman Catholics were not afraid of heresy in Presbyterian tea and cakes. Several anthems were sung by the choir, accompanied by their fine organ, and were rendered in a style which few choirs could rival. The net proceeds from sale of tickets was \$37, devoted to the extinguishing of the debt still remaining on the manse.

We call attention to the letter and speech of the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy, also the list of names published in another column. This work is still extending and attracting widespread attention. Russell Hall is filled to overflowing morning and evening of Sabbath, and over 300 attend the weekly prayer meeting. Another congregation has been opened in the west end of the city in St. Joseph's St. Dr. McVicar informs us that on the last two Sabbaths he was present in the pulpit with Mr. Chiniquy, and counted between three hundred and four hundred French people present, all listening most attentively to the preaching of the word.

Sabbath School Conference.

The Presbytery of Guelph held their annual Presbyterian Sabbath School Conference in Melville Church, Fergus, beginning on Tuesday evening and closing on Wednesday evening. Dr. Hogg, Moderator of Presbytery, presided and opened the Conference by an excellent sermon from Hebrews viii. 10. Mr. Smith then read an account of the Statistical reports he had received from Sabbath Schools in the bounds. A Committee on Resolutions was then appointed, and the services were closed for the day.

The following morning the Conference again met at nine o'clock. After devotional exercises verbal reports were received from Superintendents regarding the schools under their charge, and a free conversation held upon these, after which addresses were given by Dr. McKay, Rev. J. K. Smith and James Ross, Esq., upon the extent to which each teacher is responsible for the success of his class and school.

In the afternoon an hour was spent in hearing addresses on the best manner of securing qualified teachers. At 3 o'clock a mass meeting of Sabbath school children was held. A large number assembled, but in consequence of the severity of the cold, several, especially from the country, were prevented from attending. Interesting addresses were given them by speakers appointed for the purpose. The remainder of the afternoon sederunt was occupied with considering the best manner of interesting the children in the schemes of the Church.

The Conference did not meet again in the evening. The subject for discussion was the relation between parental and Sabbath school instruction, and this was discussed by Mr. Millican before the close of the afternoon sederunt.

All the services were deeply interesting, and we trust that teachers will return to their different localities instructed, and incited to greater earnestness and faithfulness in the discharge of the work to which they have consecrated their energies, and that the Presbytery will feel encouraged in holding such Conferences, in watching over the spiritual interests of the young throughout their bounds, and promoting their religious education through the institution of Sabbath schools.—Guelph Mercury.

Presbytery of Kingston.

The quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Kingston, on the 11th and 12th days of January. There were present eighteen ministers and five elders. The following were the chief items of business transacted. The following draft minute was submitted by Mr. Gray and adopted:—Intelligence of the death of the Rev. James McIntosh, late of Amherst Island, which took place on the 3rd Dec., having been communicated by the clerk, the Presbytery desire with the notice of his demise, to place on record their high estimate of their venerable brother. He belonged to a family of the name of McIntosh, of the name of McIntosh, which could wax eloquent; a faithful, conscientious pastor, dwelling among his own people in humble and unwearying assiduity, labouring for their good as God gave him ability; unumbringly bowing to the will of God in the befallings of life, the grace of God in the gospel, was his stay and joy in life's last struggle. The Presbytery condole with the aged sister of their deceased brother, now separated from her life-long companion, and commend her to the love and companionship of the friend who sticketh closer than a brother. Mr. Maclean reported that Mr. Cook and he had visited Melrose, etc., as instructed, and that the people there had agreed to raise in future \$400 per annum. The deputation were thanked for their diligence, and the hope was expressed that the increased amount of grant previously recommended would be paid for the half year ending the 30th Sept. The committee formerly appointed to visit the Ridge and Carlow stations was continued, with the addition of Mr. Smith as convener. Arrangements were made for moderation in calls at Stirling and Amherst Island. A paper purporting to be a call from Napanea, was set aside on the ground of irregularity. A report was given in by the committee appointed to make additional inquiries in relation to the condition of the church property within the bounds. Mr. Wilson was empowered to look after the church property at Bath. Messrs. Wilson and MacKerras, ministers, and Mr. MacAlister, elder, were appointed a committee to confer with the congregations of Camden, ancient certain property there respecting which a difficulty had arisen. Missionary meetings were arranged for. Attention being directed to the desirability of establishing stations at Morton and other places in the township of Leeds, it was resolved to take this step next summer, a gentleman from England having made a liberal offer of assistance. It was agreed to make application on behalf of the stations in Hinchinbrooke for a grant of \$2.50 per Sabbath from the central fund, to date from the first day of May last. Messrs. Wilson and Gallaher, ministers, and Mr. McAlister, elder, were appointed a deputation to visit these places, and urge the people to increased liberality. It was decided to secure the services of fourteen missionaries for the ensuing summer. It was resolved that public devotional exercises be conducted at the opening of the next quarterly meeting in lieu of the customary sermon, arrangements to be made therefore, by the ministers and representative elders of our congregations in Belleville.

We take pleasure in directing attention to the card of the only temperance hotel in Toronto. It is very centrally situated, the charges are moderate, and the proprietor, Mr. James Matthews, is unwearied in his efforts to promote the comfort of guests. Our readers who may prefer patronizing a temperance house will do well to "make a note of it."