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**EASTERN GENERAL AGENT.**

MR. WALTER KERR—for many years an esteemed elder of our Church—is the duly authorized agent for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. He will collect outstanding accounts, and take names of new subscribers. Friends are invited to give any assistance in their power to Mr. Kerr in all the congregations he may visit.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1886.

FOR reasons best known to itself, the *Mail*, in its editorial columns, has seen meet to permit the insertion of a reference to the personal relationship of the proprietor of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. In its ungainly equestrian feats with the Protestant Horse it sometimes suffers its legend about gentlemen writing for gentlemen to fall into abeyance. Like the Emperor of the Low Countries, the *Mail* is always kind to its own.

AS a practical illustration of what we said last week about catechists in the mission field, we give the following facts, which we believe are entirely correct. One of our catechists in the Muskoka field expected that he would be ordained soon after the meeting of the General Assembly. The people on his field were delighted with the prospect of having one among them to dispense ordinances. Arrangements were made for the dispensation of the Lord's supper, and twenty-eight new members were to be received, eleven children were awaiting baptism, and a number of marriages were looming up in the distance—and the distance was not very great either. The Assembly gave the Presbytery no authority to ordain the catechist. What is the result? Some of the new members will remain out of the Church until the Mission Superintendent visits the field, and most likely some of them forever. The Methodist minister will marry the young people, pocket the money, and possibly draw some of them into the Church. He will, no doubt, baptize some of the children, and possibly make Methodists of some of their parents. And this is what we call working our Home Mission effectively. We split hairs about ordination in the General Assembly, and talk lightly about our high standard of ministerial qualifications, and the Methodists take our people.

THE reports from Belfast during the past week have been appalling. That such rioting and bloodshed were possible in a British city in broad daylight is a disgrace to our civilization, not to say anything of our Christianity. No one at this distance, probably no one on the spot, can accurately apportion the blame. All we know is that hundreds of citizens of one of the chief cities of the Empire shot each other down like dogs on the public streets. That alone is enough to make any Briton hang his head with shame. There can be no doubt that the evil passions roused at the late election had a good deal to do with this butchery. The inflammable material was there, and demagogues—on both sides no doubt—put the match to it. The result is that about fifty human beings have been murdered in the streets and many more wounded, of whom, doubtless, a number will die. Signs are not wanting that there are men in Ontario, some of them making very high pretensions to spirituality, who would reproduce the Belfast riots in Ontario if they could bolster themselves and their failing causes up by so doing. Every such man, whether Catholic or Protestant, should be treated as an enemy of the commonwealth, no matter how much he whines about his superior piety. In a mixed community like ours the man who throws fireworks among the people to promote his own selfish end is little better than an anarchist.

CONSIDERABLE excitement was caused in Toronto last week by the arrest of several prominent officials and a well known coal dealer on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the city. For the credit of the capital of Ontario we hope every one of them will be able to clear himself. In common with all good citizens, there is just one thing we would insist on seeing done. Let the matter be probed to the very bottom, and let no guilty man escape, however prominent and influential he may be. If there are other persons involved let them be arrested, arraigned and tried. If Mayor Howland, and those who are with him, break down half way in their efforts to punish the guilty, it were better far that they had not taken the first step. The old plan of passing by the really responsible parties and punishing the brakeman on the last car for a railway accident is demoralizing to the public mind. There are too many people, even in Toronto, who think there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. Perhaps they have at times too much reason for so thinking. It would be better for the city to pay four prices for its coal than to furnish people with another illustration of the fact that there are offenders the law cannot reach. If Mayor Howland is prepared to put the law in motion against every offender, the people will sustain him. If he takes the brakeman and is afraid to attack more prominent offenders—if such there are—Mayor Howland is doomed next January. He is engaged in a kind of work just now that does not admit of half measures.

THE clergy are the most lectured men in the world. Besides the publications devoted specially to their benefit, one can scarcely pick up a magazine or newspaper without seeing some directions about how to read, or how to preach, or how to pray. Much that is written, especially from the layman's standpoint, is valuable because it shows what people are thinking about the pulpit, and that is a good thing for a preacher to know. A good deal is very senseless, more especially the homilies on the details of ministerial life. One writer lays out the minister's week something like this: Monday, odd jobs; Tuesday, sermons; Wednesday, finish sermons; Thursday, literature; Friday, writing; Saturday, touch up sermons. What could be more delightfully simple. But supposing the minister has to attend Presbytery on Tuesday and go to a funeral on Wednesday, and drive eight or ten miles to see a sick parishioner on Thursday, and is sick himself on Friday. What comes of the beautiful arrangement? All minute rules regulating the work of a busy minister, or, for that matter, any public man, are rubbish. A man who serves the public must just work the best way he can. The best plan for one week may be the worst for another. Emergencies may arise at any moment and break up the best laid plan. One rule which holds good generally is to break the back of the week's work as early in the week as possible. Tuesday is a good day for sermons for some men. For others it is not good, as the sermon gets cold on their hands before Sabbath. The best way for each man to work is the way he can work best.

IT always gives Canadians much pleasure to see a representative of our young nation wake up an audience of stolid Englishmen with a rousing good speech. Seldom has this been done with more effect than by our neighbour, Dr. Sutherland, the other day in his splendid address to the British Conference. Referring to the habit that Englishmen have of calling the United States America, the Doctor said:

Some of them seem to regard it as of small extent and little value, while their geography is so vague that they make no distinction between us and our cousins across the international boundary, but speak of the whole continent simply as America. In one sense they are right; the whole continent is America; but not that same America. (Laughter.) American America is one thing—a very grand thing; but British America is another, and we do not want that distinction to be lost sight of. Then, as to extent, there is a fact which I like to emphasize, because our American brethren surpass us in so many things. They have the largest population, and the biggest rivers, and the tallest mountains, and can raise larger pumpkins than any other land beneath the sun—(laughter)—and so it affords me satisfaction to be able to say that in the Dominion of Canada we have a territory larger than the whole of the United States, with Alaska thrown in. (Hear, hear.) True, a part of our territory lies somewhere around the North Pole—(laughter)—but if our American cousins can boast that they possess Boston, which has been called the "hub of the universe," we may be pardoned for cherishing a little pride in the fact that we

own the North Pole, although, as yet, we have not turned it to much practical account. (Loud laughter.)

Seriously, our good neighbours across the lines have no right to monopolize the term American. We Canadians are Americans and own more than half the Continent. There are two nations over here as all Englishmen should know. Our nation is not as big as the other one, but bigness is not the main thing. Our neighbours have better things than their bigness, and we too may have some good things about us, though, as a nation, we are not very large. It is high time that all Englishmen knew that there are two American nations.

**BELLIGERENT BELFAST.**

A PAINFUL result of the excited feeling that prevailed during the recent election campaign in Great Britain is seen in the deplorable state of things in the city of Belfast. Day after day despatches come telling of the wild work in progress in what was rightly considered the quiet, orderly and most progressive city in Ireland. The fiercest passions were let loose, and opposing mobs attacked each other with the most savage fury. To say that there was a reckless disregard of the value of human life would obviously convey but an inadequate idea of the ungovernable hatred that found vent for itself in murderous onslaughts prolonged for days. The number killed outright and those whose wounds were fatal is great, some accounts placing it at about fifty. Those who received serious injuries from missiles and still more deadly weapons must, in the nature of the case, be very numerous. Each faction is, it seems, anxious to conceal from the other the actual number of losses inflicted in these culpable conflicts. More lives have been lost and more men have been disabled than is sometimes the case in a decisive battle in regular warfare.

It is said that there has been but little destruction of property comparatively. The Catholics occasionally attacked the dwellings of Protestants, who sometimes retaliated in a similar manner. Liquor shops were attacked and plundered, but the deadly hatred prompted the combatants to seek the destruction of each other. The police were unable to do much in checking the disturbances, because they themselves were objects of dislike, especially to the Orange rioters. Apprehending trouble, the late Irish Secretary is credited with having drafted a large number of the constabulary force from Roman Catholic districts who were therefore objects of suspicion and distrust to the Protestants. These protectors of the public peace were themselves severely handled, several of them having lost their lives in attempts to quell the riots. Only when the disorder was becoming unendurable was a sufficient force of military brought to the scene of action, who, after vigorous efforts, have been able to bring active hostilities to an end.

Political feeling in the North of Ireland yet runs high. To it is largely traceable the exasperation that has led to such deplorable results. This excitement is manifest in the contradictory theories as to the purpose and origin of these disturbances. Each party is trying to place responsibility for these dreadful outbreaks on the other. There is no doubt that during the electoral campaign and before it there was much incendiary speaking by leading men of different political parties. Nationalist threatened Orangemen, and Orangemen defied Nationalists. Wild incendiary harangues too often lead to riotous and bloody work among the masses. It has clearly been so in the North of Ireland. It may be that the political leaders never contemplated the dreadful results that followed close upon the election. They would be unworthy of the place they occupy if for a moment they contemplated such a thing. The enthusiasm they sought to arouse was to terminate at the ballot-box, but unhappily it lasted longer and went much farther. It is so much easier to arouse lawless hate than to subdue it. Any man may incite a mob to ungovernable fury, while possibly not one in twenty has the rare faculty of restoring an angry crowd to peaceable and law-abiding purposes. There is a strong desire amongst the Belfast citizens for the appointment of a Government Commission to enquire into the causes of this mimic civil war. This desire is eminently proper and reasonable. An accurate knowledge of all the circumstances would lead to the prevention of similar deadly outbreaks.

Sad as the wanton destruction of human life in these riots has been, deplorable as are all the cir-