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## The Canada Presbyterian

O. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH, 1895

## SPECIAL OFFER!

In order that many who have not yet become subscribers to THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN may be able at a moderate outlay, to give the paper a FAIR TRIAL, we will send it to any new subscriber (outside Toronto) till 1st January, 1896, for \$1.00! Send in your name and money at once.

Present subscribers, and those who may receive a specimen copy of this issue, will confer a favor by making this offer as widely known as possible.

WE are glad to be able to announce to all the delegates to the W. F. M. S. who were concerned for the beloved and honored president of the Society, on account of the giving way of her strength on the last day of the meeting, that she is steadily improving. The nervous strain of preparing for and then presiding at the meeting, together with her other labors, simply proved too much. It is fully expected that a season of absolute rest and quiet will quite restore her strength, and enable her again to take her place and do her part as president of the Society.

WE are glad to announce that the Rev. Dr. Cochrane has received during the past week the following sums: From the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, £250 sterling; for North West Mission, £250 sterling; for Manitoba College, £50 sterling; for Queen's College, £50 sterling. To be applied as in former years for work in the Northwest: From St. Giles Church, Edinburgh, £50 sterling; Adelaide Rd. Congregation, Dublin, £52 10s. sterling; friends, per Rev. E. F. Simpson, Bailymena, £6 sterling; Elmwood Congregation, per W. McBride, Belfast, £5 12s. sterling; Mr. Pringle, £2 sterling; Miss Mulligan, Belfast, £1 sterling.

EVERYTHING indicating an increase of the taste for reading of the right kind among our people must be gratefully welcomed by every intelligent citizen. We have pleasure in quoting in this connection from the report of the librarian of the Hamilton Public Library: "While fiction continues, naturally, to hold first place in books drawn for home use, other classes are in great demand, more especially for reference use in the library. Books of history, travel, biography, and the useful and fine arts are constantly in demand, while the many hundreds of inquiries for the cyclopedias, annuals and other books in the reference department, are refreshing evidences that our citizens are alive to the fact that the library contains a grand store of information on almost every conceivable subject." It may be laid down as a general rule, we believe, increase the facilities for obtaining good, wholesome reading, and the number of readers will increase.

WE learn from the Rev. Dr. Cochrane that though money is coming in for the deficit in the Home Mission Funds, it is most desirable that the utmost promptitude should be shown by all who propose to help. Up to date \$60,000 have come to hand, but \$10,000 more are urgently needed to meet the just claims of our missionaries. Should the amount come up to \$70,000, it is probable that the Committee will feel warranted to pay up in full all the claims of missionaries. We are glad to notice by way of stimulus and example that one Toronto congregation, that of St. James Square, at one collection given on Sabbath 14th inst., nearly \$600 for the deficit.

WE would ask the attention of our readers to the communication of the Rev. Dr. Robertson on page 272 of this issue respecting the causes of the Home Mission deficit. It is not at all strange that questions should be asked, how so large a deficit has arisen by those not so thoroughly conversant with the whole work as is Dr. Robertson, and it is explained with a frankness and fullness which should satisfy every honest enquirer. The explanation having been given, showing that the Home Mission Committee is in no way to blame for it, it is hoped will lead to a general and hearty endeavor to make it fully up, so that no missionary of our Church will, for want of funds, have to suffer the loss of the smallest portion of his promised salary.

PROBLEMS more or less grave and difficult, and of all possible kinds, are always and will always be turning up. The three following were discussed lately at a meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. It is unnecessary to say that they exist among ourselves and call for the wisest consideration and action. The first problem was how to overcome the incessant tendencies to appeal to the sensuous element in our churches and Sabbath schools, especially in the matter of music and entertainments. The second related to the difficulties in obtaining more practical and effective co-operation on the part of the members of the church, or of finding the right kind of workers to fill the vacant places in official and private church relations. The third problem concerned the erecting of places of worship commensurate with the growing needs of the city.

IN the *Golden Rule*, our fellow-citizen and the well known minister of our Church, Rev. William Patterson is described as that "stalwart Presbyterian and Christian Endeavourer from Canada." He is to make the presentation speech when the good-citizenship banners are awarded. We have seen the fear expressed that, on "Patriotic Day," our good cousins across the lines, especially when in Boston, so full of Revolution memories and associations, may wound unwittingly the susceptibilities of Canadians and loyal Britishers. We hardly think so. On that day and subject a little liberty may be pardoned, but in the hands of Mr. Patterson, we have no fear but that, should defence be needed, the interests of Canadians and British citizenship will be well looked after with that happy good humour which belongs peculiarly to Irishmen and to Mr. Patterson, both as an Irishman and a Christian minister.

JUST as circumstantial evidence may in certain crises be the most convincing and satisfactory kind of evidence, so incidental testimony to the success of missions, and the effect they are having on the most firmly established and venerable systems of heathenism, may often be the most powerful testimony. Such incidental evidence is multiplying now in every land. Some striking instances were given by Rev. Dr. Gillespie in his speech at the W.F.M.S.'s public meeting last week. Mr. Fraser Campbell and Dr. Smith both referred to them. Mrs. Ewart in her opening address gives a very striking instance, and they are constantly found in the letters of missionaries. The man who now ventures to talk slightly of missions and missionaries only exposes his own ignorance, or bitter, unreasoning prejudice, for even the heathen themselves, by their own confessions and conduct, rise up to refute and silence him.

THE "Plea for the Catechism," by R. O. S., which appeared in our issue of last week, will, we hope, meet with a ready response by many of our Sunday School superintendents, teachers, parents and pastors. The Catechism well taught is not only not ignoring Scripture, it is the most effective way of teaching what the Scriptures teach. For that reason we are convinced it would be well if in all our Sabbath schools it were made the main part of the teaching, into which the Scriptures would be wrought and dovetailed, and so made to teach truth systematically, rather than in the disconnected and therefore ineffective way in which it is for the most part done as the Sabbath school system of lessons is now arranged.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
W. F. M. S.

THE large proportions to which this Society has attained, and the important place it now takes in the church, make its annual meeting to be an occasion of more than ordinary interest, not only to the Society itself, but even to the whole Church, and to the agents more directly employed by it in so many different lands, and in so many different ways. The meeting just closed, like those which have gone before, naturally suggest some reflections which are in place at the present time.

The object of the Society is nothing less than divine. It is one dear to the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the full accomplishment of which will be one of the crowning acts and glories of the present providential dispensation and scheme of things. The carrying of it out is an act of faith and simple obedience to the last great command of the ascending Saviour, the incarnate God. While it is this, it is also a work of mercy, of the highest possible beneficence, and fraught with countless and unspeakable blessings to mankind in this present life, and beyond of possibilities and certainties of spiritual progress, of glory and blessedness to redeemed men and women, and of honor and glory to God such as belong to no other undertaking. While these are its objects, as concerns those for whom it labors, it exercises and must in the nature of things exercise, the most elevating and ennobling effect upon all those who are sincerely, and from pure motives engaged in it. It is so divine, so God-like in its unselfishness, that it calls forth, awakens into activity, gives scope to and enlarges every best faculty and power which God has bestowed upon man. Such are simply and truly the objects of this Society and the results which the pursuit of them in a right spirit are directly calculated to produce.

The numbers who gather together to this meeting, the distances which very many travel, from Ottawa to Windsor, or even Winnipeg, the very different circumstances and surroundings from which they come of city, town, village, hamlet and purely rural district are an interesting feature of this annual gathering. All these representing a multitude interested in and laboring with them in the same great and blessed work, suggest a picture to the mind of surpassing interest, which carries the thoughts from one end of the country to the other, and embraces the best women of all ranks and classes. It is not to be wondered at, further, that so many coming together filled with interest of the noblest and holiest kind, should make, when they meet, a gathering unusually bright and happy, and marked by great unity and intensity of aim and purpose. It is an interest which deepens and widens and gathers force and volume each day by the coming together of so many to promote the same great object, as tiny streams flowing together form at last the mighty river. The meetings are, as one would expect, of a very happy kind, and kindle and spread among all present a gladness which manifests itself unmistakably in the faces and in the words of those who are privileged to take part in them. All the exercises at the meetings are such as are well calculated in their nature, and also in the excellence of them to promote this spirit of Christian joy and gladness. A better pleased, happier looking company than they formed who made up this annual gathering could hardly be imagined.