

opened which has laid Canadian Freethought under a debt of deep obligation to the gentlemen before named and those editors who kindly published notices of the intended meeting in Toronto. By these means a large and influential assemblage was the gratifying result. Resolutions as herounder were adopted, and a most cordial and enthusiastic session was concluded with results as shown by the resolutions before mentioned, and which will be found in the Secretary's report.

By the able management of the Solicitor of the Association, Mr. Meek, the incorporation of the Freethought Association of Canada is now a fact, and Freethinkers of Canada generally may plume themselves upon the circumstance that however obnoxious Freethought may be to orthodoxy, its establishment in Canada has received the legal sanction of the law of the land, and that the imprimatur of one of the Judges of Canada enables them to take their stand as a legally enrolled body, recognized by law, truth, and justice, though not by a bigoted press. The same legal gentleman has also obtained the incorporation of the Ontario Freethought Printing and Publishing Company.

We should be doing a serious injustice to the people of Toronto if we did not put on record the curious fact that only in a few instances, and these of a minor character, has any attempt been made at persecution.

The attitude of the Toronto people has been one of surprise and wonder. They attend the meetings in large numbers in Albert Hall, and although there is occasionally a strong show of opposition, yet the order and dignity of the proceedings have remained undisturbed, and one of the most cheering facts which have come to our knowledge is the circumstance that large promises of support and sympathy have been made and actually given to our Association by many of the leading business and educated men of the city and country.

The day is not distant (though we are not usually of the speculative belief), but we are safe in repeating that it is our opinion that the press of Toronto will find their bread buttered by better material than priestly cant. The time has arrived when the business and better informed men of this essentially trading and travelling community require stronger intellectual food than is usually given by rant, cant, and crucifix; and the milk and water effusions of our daily press are rapidly becoming as nauseating to sensible people as rue and wormwood to a healthy stomach. We commend to our contemporaries a careful study of this fact. Public opinion in these regions more frequently leads the press than do the press public opinion. This should not be so, and we trust our journalistic friends will look to their laurels.

The establishment and incorporation of the Canadian Freethought Association assumes that branches will be speedily formed in every section of the country, and already branches are opened at Toronto, Meaford, Owen Sound, Lindsay, Napance, Ottawa, and other places, and as speedily as possible these will be put on terms of affiliation with the National Society now of Toronto. It will be seen by the resolution governing the formation or branch societies that all Presidents of these associations will be ex-officio Vice-Presidents of the National Society, and these, with the membership otherwise provided, will give each branch a fair representation in the councils of the national body, who will assemble in convention at least once a year, immediately before Christmas, this being thought to be the most convenient time for members to leave their homes to attend a meeting in Toronto, or any other place that may be determined at the meeting of the previous convention.

One of the first acts of the convention was to authorize the publication of a journal. A company was formed for that purpose, and a provisional directorate appointed. A stock list was opened, and a subscription list is also established. Some \$1,500 of stock was immediately subscribed, and \$1,000 more has been handsomely promised by Mr. Albert White, of Aylmer, as well as considerable sums by various members of Freethought societies in other sections. The directorate have every confidence that this fall will produce a sufficient subscription of stock and for the paper to warrant the permanent publica-

tion of the journal at an early date, say by the meeting of the next convention in Toronto, December 2nd, 1877.

In the meantime, from information received and upon the strong recommendation of Mr. B. F. Underwood, this initial number has been issued so as to give the friends of the paper an opportunity of procuring subscribers who naturally wish to have a sample of the work for which they agree to subscribe, and the present number is intended to show the friends of the paper the style, tone, and extent of that in which Canadian Freethinkers must necessarily feel universally interested.

We most heartily commend the FREETHOUGHT JOURNAL to its friends, and while congratulating them upon their magnificent success in the past would seriously urge the necessity of the cordial union of every friend of liberty of thought, speech, and person. Let our countrymen throw off the swaddling clothes of an infant intellectuality. Let them remember it is only by the dissemination amongst the multitude of living truths supported by the logic of science that true manhood can escape from the old blindness of dogmatic theology. There may be difference of opinion as to means, but in the end desired there can be but one opinion.

J. I. EVANS.

CANADIAN FREETHOUGHT CONVENTION.

First Session, April 14th 1877.

In accordance with a circular issued by the Toronto Liberal Association, a Convention of the Freethinkers of Canada was held in Albert Hall, Toronto, on Saturday the 14th of April, 1877, and following days.

The Assembly room was handsomely decorated with bannerets pendant, each banneret displaying the name of a noted martyr to ignorant bigotry, or of some famous apostle of Free-enquiry and her twin sister Science.

J. I. Evans, President of the Toronto Liberal Association, took temporary possession of the chair; R. Green, 1st Vice-President, the Vice chair, and R. B. Butland, Secretary, the Secretaryship.

The meeting having been duly called to order, the President of the Toronto Liberal Association delivered an address of welcome to the delegates.

The report of the Treasurer-Librarian, Mr. R. Riley, was read and disclosed that the Toronto Association was progressing marvellously. A remarkable feature being the statement that the Society was free from debt, save a debt of gratitude to those whose time and money have been unsparingly lavished in its aid.

The President presented a review of the rise and progress of the Liberal Association in Toronto.

The chair was then vacated and the Convention requested to appoint its own chairman.

It was moved by Mr. F. B. Underwood, seconded by Mr. W. Sisson, that Mr. J. I. Evans be permanent Chairman of the Convention. The motion being put by the Secretary, was declared carried unanimously.

J. I. Evans, on taking the Chair, expressed his sense of the honor conferred, and called for the appointment of Secretary.

It was moved by W. J. R. Hargrave, seconded by C. A. Scadding, that John T. Hawke be first Secretary of the Convention.

It was moved by S. B. Davenport, seconded by W. J. R. Hargrave, that R. B. Butland be second Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman then read following list of names of Canadian and other Freethinkers endorsing the Convention, but who were unable to be present:

Horace Seaver and J. P. Thompson, Boston; H. L. Green, Salamanca, N. Y.; Allen Pringle, Selby, Ont.; T. W. Harman, Bells Corners, Ont.; Peter Dewssott, Connecticut; D. J. Estelle, Carlsruhuo; Jno. McMillan, Oshawa; James Thompson, Sarnia; J. Greaves, Collingwood; W. H. Evans, Bowmanville; A. R. Lilly, Picton, N. S.; D. Payne, Marmora; T. R. Dupris, Kingston; Jno. L. Taylor, Montreal; Francis Van de Bogart, W. D. Le Seur, Ottawa; Wm. MacKay, Courtlandt; Wm. N. Watson,