

British American Presbyterian.

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A DENOMINATIONAL ORGAN.

An overture on this subject from the London Synod was supported by Dr. Proudfoot, who thought that such a medium as a weekly newspaper would greatly advance many interests of the Church.

On motion of Mr. McMullen, after some discussion, it was resolved that the overture be rejected, and that the above-mentioned paper be recommended to the ministers and members of the C.P. Church as worthy of their hearty support.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUG. 30, 1872.

OUR FRIENDS are reminded that subscriptions to the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN are payable in advance. With this issue we commence the second half year; and those who have not yet remitted, are invited to do so without any further delay.

SUBSCRIBERS who paid for six months and wish to continue, should RENEW AT ONCE, in order that their names may not be struck off the list.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Canadian elections are now nearly over. Both sides claim the victory. There can be no doubt that the Reformers have made considerable gains, especially in Ontario.

Apart from the elections, there is nothing else stirring the public mind of Canada. Everywhere there are abundant signs of the country being in a highly prosperous condition, which is showing itself, among other ways, in the extent of summer travel.

The Presidential contest in the States is as curious as can be imagined. Fierce anti-slavery men, and those of the redoubtable K. K. K., are clasping hands over the bloody chasm, while protectionist and free trader are forgetting their hobbies in presence of a contest of a far more important description, and for the time, at any rate, they are acting as if they were one.

There are still those who doubt whether Stanley ever saw Livingstone, and bring forward very absurd considerations in support of their skepticism. In their efforts to disparage Stanley, these people make him almost more than human. Letters from Livingstone to most obscure persons, of whom or of whose whereabouts Stanley could know nothing, are always turning up, and if these persons are not competent to judge of the genuineness of a man's writing after all the intercourse of past years, who is? We, at one time, more than doubted of Stanley's success; now we

can do nothing but acknowledge that the "lost has been found."

On the Continent of Europe nothing of any importance has taken place during the past eight days. Whatever agencies may be at work to bring down great and important changes, all has been outwardly quiet. The overgrowing power of free thought and free speech is everywhere visible. Men feel like those who dreamed when they contrast the present state of things with what prevailed only a few years ago, and the gains that freedom is making are likely to be kept. It is also to be noted that the Geneva arbitrators are expected to give their award in a week or two. It is expected that England will have to pay four or five millions.

Contrary to expectation, the Belfast riots broke out again during the week, but without any very disastrous consequences. These Irish faction fights are a disgrace to civilization and humanity, and coming so often as they do, in the name of religion and principle, are doubly scandalous. If such be the most effectual means by which religion or Protestantism can be kept up, then it certainly is on its last legs. "A plague upon both houses," say we. As such conduct, even in Ireland, with all its wretched traditions of mutual injuries for centuries, it is a thousand times worse to have even the germs of such things introduced into Canada, and those incur grave responsibility who are seeking to transplant to our new land the miserable feuds and jealousies which have so long given Ireland a hard notoriety the world over.

The defeat of Sir George Cartier in Montreal, by the immense majority of 1,287, is one of the most significant features in the political contest at present going on in Canada. It has taken both friends and enemies by surprise. How it has been brought round has been variously accounted for. Sir George's mismanagement of the Militia may have done something, and the arrogance of the plucky little Frenchman may have contributed somewhat to his overthrow. But there can be little doubt that Sir George's conduct on the New Brunswick School Bill is the great sin which has sealed his fate. The priests insisted that the Bill should have been vetoed. When that was not done, and when eventually Sir George would not interfere in the local affairs of New Brunswick, so as to overthrow what was fairly within the jurisdiction of the Local Parliament, then his fall was certain. Much as we could wish to believe that this defeat is due to an awakening of the popular mind in Quebec, and to a rebellion against the political dictatorship of the imperious little Baronet, we are unable to take any such a flattering view of the situation. Sir George has many political sins on his shoulders, for which he deserves punishment, but he has not on their account been rejected; but for what after all ought in the estimation of Protestants to be rather regarded as honorable. To be sure there was no principle in his course. Had the Ministry gone, as at one time was intended, against the N. B. School Law, the New Brunswickers would have been up in arms at the treatment. That would have possibly endangered the Ministry quite as badly, but in that case we very much doubt if Sir George would have been the rejected of Montreal.

The Ultramontane party had united with the rouges to put down Cartier. To advance liberalism by the movement is as far from the thoughts of the priests as anything can be, but we are sanguine that the result will, in spite of all priestly scheming, be greatly in favor of civil and religious freedom. The process of disintegration has commenced. The priests have encouraged their adherents to join with the liberals in ousting Sir George, and they may find, as we hope they will, that they have taught their followers a lesson which will carry them further in the same direction.

Rev. Dr. ORMISTON, New York.—The Rev. Dr. Ormiston preached in Toronto, in the new Metropolitan Methodist Church, last Sabbath, to a large and attentive audience, and in his usual eloquent manner. The Rev. Dr. seems in the best of health and spirits, and returns to New York to-day, after an absence of three months.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The long-looked for minutes of the Assembly have at last made their appearance, and, it is to be hoped, will be as useful as some of our correspondents anticipate. We believe that the difficulty in getting them out sooner has been connected with the late strike among the printers, and that it has been unavoidable.

There are many interesting facts stated in those minutes which show that the C. P. Church is outwardly making very encouraging progress, and it is to be hoped that this is but an intimation of progress of a higher and better kind.

The deaths among the ministers during the year has been exceptionally few, amounting only to two, viz: Dr. Boyd, of Prescott, and Mr. Duncan, of Markham.

The number of demissions has been large, as many as twenty-one, while the inductions and ordinations have come up to thirty, and the translations to 14.

Thirteen ministers have been received from other Churches, twelve students licensed, seventeen new congregations erected, and seventeen new groups of Mission-stations opened. The total number of stations supplied by ministers of the Church as regular portions of their several charges is 615, and then another 70 partially supplied, giving a gain for the year of 27 on the former and 12 on the latter.

The total number of ministers on the roll is 807, a gain of 11 since last report, while the reported vacancies have only been diminished by 5. Only 29 ministers have sent in no report. Under almost every head there is an increase over last year, and if every minister would make it a point to report fully and regularly the increase would be still more manifest. We wonder how any one calling himself a Presbyterian should even think of refusing so necessary information.

The membership has increased by about two thousand; the sittings provided by about nine thousand, twenty-one churches, eleven mansees, two school-rooms, and one lecture-room. The average stipend paid has increased on the year \$38, viz: from \$695 to \$728, and that paid exclusively by the congregation from \$664 to \$689. The average contribution of each member for strictly congregational purposes has been \$8.38, a decrease of 80 cents. On some of the items there is a small increase, though, truth to tell, their might be more without any fears of the contributors being ruined. For widows and orphans, for instance, the average per member has risen from 6 1/2 cents to 6 1/4. The whole average contributions to Missionary and benevolent purposes per member is a dollar. Altogether, the contributions, both for the individual Church and external objects, average per member \$9.78, a decrease on last year of 10 cents. Considering the great and general prosperity of the country, this is not by any means creditable. It is a great matter that so much has been done, but there ought to have been a great deal more.

While the amount raised for ministers' stipends has increased, as has also the average salary paid, it is to be noted that there are twenty more ministers who receive less than \$500 per annum from all sources. This is far from being as it ought.

Then there are about \$4,000 of arrears of the stipend, which of itself represents a great amount of annoyance and discomfort to those who reckoned upon receiving that sum, but did not.

It is also a curious, but not very complimentary fact, as far as some are concerned, to have to note that 52 congregations gave more than one-half of all that was contributed to the schemes of the Church. In many cases the contributions set are in the last degree discreditable, giving one the idea that the congregations concerned are merely playing at religion, and care nothing whether the cause of Christ in Canada and the world sink or swim. Some congregations, paying from \$700 to \$1,000, or \$1,200 of stipend, give mere dribblets to the schemes of the Church—some nothing at all. What are the ministers and office-bearers about in such cases?

We cannot dip further into these minutes at present, but may return to other points in them at another time. There is room evidently for congratulation in many of the things stated, but there is as evidently room for humiliation and amendment.

GAVAZZI.

Many of those who remember Gavazzi's last visit to Canada will rejoice to again see and hear one who has taken to prominent a part both in religious and political questions for more than the last quarter of a century. Time is dealing kindly with the worthy Padre, though years are evidently telling upon him. In many respects there are intimations of increased spirituality and, in consequence, of power. The "old fire" is not abated, and the Gavazzi of 1872 we are inclined to think will be generally regarded as a vast improvement on the Gavazzi of 1852. His addresses in Canada are awakening a great amount of interest, and we don't wonder that they should; the wonder would be if they did not. He speaks out fearlessly and well. The Plymouth brethren fare very hardly at his hands, almost as much so in fact as the Pope himself. When political considerations in Canada are tending so powerfully to muzzle all expression of opinion that is hostile to the pretensions of the Church of Rome, it is refreshing to hear a man like Gavazzi speaking out what many feel, but from mistaken policy are afraid to express. We hope the present visit of the eloquent Italian to America will do a great deal of good and that the funds raised will also greatly help on the cause of righteousness in the dominions of Victor Immanuel.

REV. DAVID INGLIS, L.L.D.

We regret to learn that there is every likelihood of Knox College being deprived of the services of Professor Inglis, as that gentleman has received, and, we believe, accepted, a call from one of the Dutch Reformed congregations in Brooklyn, N.Y.

This is discouraging to the College, especially since the commencement of the session is so near, and there is consequently so little time to make other arrangements.

The many friends of Dr. Inglis in Canada will deeply regret that he has seen it to be his duty to take this course, but they will follow him to his new field of labor with heartiest good wishes and prayers that his labors may be greatly blessed to the advancement of the good cause in the land to which he goes.

LADIES' COLLEGES.

We lately noticed the establishment of a Ladies' College at Ottawa under the care of Rev. Mr. Laing. We are glad to see that another has been started with encouraging prospects of success in Winnipeg, Manitoba, under the care of Professor Bruce, and another at St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, under Rev. Mr. Ductos. The latter is for the purpose of giving a thorough superior education to French Protestant ladies. We hope they will be all successful, as they are all greatly needed.

The Methodist Recorder, of Pittsburg, is about as sensible on one point as we could wish a paper to be:—

One of the curious things about editing a religious newspaper is, that about four-fifths of the pious pensters whose contributions have been declined, or even delayed, take personal offense at the editor. They write private reminders that less important and more lengthy articles than theirs have appeared, and so forth and so forth. Sometimes they stop the paper—that is, their copy of it, not the whole enterprise!—sometimes they depreciate publishing concerns generally. It is a pretty sure indication of a rejected communication to hear certain literally ambitious persons criticize their Church paper. But editors must continue to exercise their impartial judgment on all submitted articles; and this with a view to the interest, profit and pleasure of their regular readers, rather than to the feelings of voluntary writers. Editors should not feel under any special obligations to youth, age, or to position; but always to the Church's general good. Any other course would be to waste time and come short of duty. Brief, suggestive articles, if free from mere local or personal talk, are welcome, especially when written by experienced Christians. And such persons are always reasonable.

BENEFITS OF SUNSHINE.

Seclusion from sunshine is one of the misfortunes of our civilized life. The same cause which makes the potato vines white and sickly, when grown in the dark cellars, operates to produce the pale, sickly girls that are reared in our parlors. Expose either to the rays of the sun, and they begin to show color, health, and strength.

One of the ablest lawyers in the country, a victim of long and hard brain labor, came to me a year ago suffering from partial paralysis. The right leg and hip were reduced in size, with constant pain in the loins. He was obliged in coming up stairs to lift up the left foot first, dragging the right foot after it. Pale, feeble, miserable, he told me he had been failing for several years, and closed with "My work is done. At sixty I find myself worn out."

I directed him to lie down under a large window and allow the sun to shine on every part of his body; at first, ten minutes a day, increasing the time until he could expose himself to the direct rays of the sun for a full hour. His habits were not essentially altered in any other particular. In six months he came running up stairs like a vigorous man of forty, and declared with sparkling eyes, "I have twenty years more of work in me."

I have assisted many dyspeptic, neurgic, rheumatic, and hypochondriacal people into health by the sun cure. I have so many facts illustrating the wonderful power of the sun's direct rays in curing certain classes of invalids, that I have thought seriously of publishing a work to be denominated the "Sun Cure."—Home and Health.

LUXURY.

I am no advocate for meanness of private habitation. I would fain introduce into it all magnificence, care, and beauty, where they are possible; but I would not have that useless expense in unnoticed fineries or formalities, cornice ceilings and grainings of doors, fringing of curtains, and thousands of such things, which have become foolishly and apathetically habitual—things on which common appliance hang whole trades, to which there never belonged the blessings of giving one ray of real pleasure, or becoming of the remotest or most contemptible use—things which cause half the expense of life and destroy more than half its comfort, manliness, respectability, freshness, and facility. I speak from experience; I know what it is to live in a cottage, with a deal floor and roof, and a hearth of mica slate; and I know it to be in many respects healthier and happier than living between a Turkey carpet and a gilded ceiling, beside a steel grate and polished fender. I do not say that such things have not their place and propriety; but I say this emphatically, that a tenth part of the expense which is sacrificed in domestic vanities, if not absolutely and meaninglessly lost in domestic comforts and incumbrances, would if collectively afforded and wisely employed, build a marble church for every town in England; such a church as it should be a joy and blessing to pass near in our daily ways and walks, and as it would bring the light into the eyes to see from afar, lifting its airy height above the purple crowd of humble roofs.—Ruskin

The miners' strike in the Nord and Pas de Calais departments has terminated.

M. Armand Gouzien proposes a tax on books as a means of reducing the deficiency in the French Budget.

The quantity of preserved meat exported from Australia for the four weeks ending 8th June, was 950,000 lbs.

The Pope has detached the canton of Geneva from the diocese of Lausanne and made it a separate diocese, with Mgr. Mermillod as bishop.

The census returns of Victoria show that the Chinese numbered 17,985, of whom 17,899 were males and 86 were females; and the aborigines 1830, of whom 784 were males and 546 were females.

In a portion of Siberia, where the inhabitants live chiefly on salmon, which every third or fourth year fail to appear, the Government has established a fish savings bank, with a capital of 300,000 dried fish.

Messrs. Rothschild, the bankers at Paris and Frankfort, have received, in recognition of their services rendered to the Prussian Government, the insignia of the St. Annie and Stanislaus Orders of the first class.

The payment of the first 500,000,000fr. of the war indemnity for the evacuation of the Maine and Haute Marne will take place when the huts are built for the Prussian troops in the Departments to which they will withdraw.

A distinguished artist in aquafortis engraving, M. Henri Trappes, aged thirty-seven, to whom the public is indebted for some illustrations of "Gil Blas," committed suicide a few days ago in Paris, by firing a pistol into his heart.