

Brief Sketch of the Union Congregation, Lancaster.

The congregation is popularly known as the Union Congregation of Lancaster, in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and as such dates origin from the 2nd day of November, 1875, when by a joint resolution of Zion Congregation, popularly known as the Canada Presbyterian Church and a section of the Kirk Congregation, this united congregation was formed.

"International Exchange of Pulpits."

We are pleased to see that the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN is out with an able and forcible article on the subject embraced in the caption above quoted. It takes the visit of the Rev. A. N. Somerville as an example, and argues that although this gentleman is not here in the character of an exchange, he has drawn in every city and town he has visited immense crowds of eager listeners, and delighted and charmed every one with his peculiarly fervid eloquence and genial manner.

A Few Words about Treating.

There are but few young men in the Dominion, and scarcely one in the city, we venture to assert, who will not recognize the truthfulness of the following remarks, about the "treating system," taken from a contemporary. Those who have passed through the mill or are now "one of the boys" will admit that the picture drawn is not fancifully painted, but is true to life.

DEAN STANLEY thus explains why the term "blue" was originally applied to the Presbyterians:—"The distinct dress of the Scotch Presbyterian clergy was a blue gown and a broad blue bonnet. The Episcopal clergy on the contrary, either wore no distinctive dress in public services, or else wore a black gown. From this arose the contrasting epithets of 'Black Prelogy' and the 'Blue Presbyterians.'"

Mr. George Smith.

Many of our readers will understand something of the loss which Biblical Archaeology has sustained in the death of Mr. George Smith, the justly celebrated Assyriologist. The announcement has been received by Atlantic Cable, but no particulars are given.

Mr. Smith had been employed as curator of the British Museum; and notwithstanding some educational deficiencies, he manifested so great an amount of diligence and unconquerable determination in the pursuit of antiquarian knowledge, that he has laid us under very great obligations, by the discoveries he has made in ancient Assyrian lore. Layard, Loftus, and Rassam had dived into the mounds of Nimroud or Kalah, and Kouyunjik or Nineveh, and for twenty-six years the literati of Europe busied themselves over the materials they had secured.

In addition to these, historical inscriptions have also been found, giving the annals of Assyria from the reign of Salmanser to the fall of Nineveh. They also mention seven contemporary Kings of Israel, the expedition of Sennacherib against Jerusalem, the submission of Gyges and the conquest of Egypt by Assur-bani-pal; also the succession of eponymous officers, by whose year of office all deeds and events were dated from B. C. 908 to 650.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTH. At Edwardsburg, Ont., on the 25th ult., the wife of Rev. W. M. McKinnon, B.A., of a son.

Official Announcements.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES. OWEN SOUND.—The next meeting of the Presbytery of Owen Sound will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of September, in Division Street Church, Owen Sound.

BRUCE.—In Knox Church, Kincardin, on the last Tuesday of September, at 11 a.m.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

WESTERN DISTRICT. The Home Mission Committee for the Western District will meet in the Deacon's Room of Knox Church, Toronto, ON MONDAY EVENING, 2ND OCTOBER, at 7 p.m.

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