

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Proprietor.

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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1883.

OWING to extra pressure of advertising and other matter, several important communications are reluctantly but unavoidably held over.

THE people of Toronto are again to be favoured by a visit of the Fisk Jubilee Singers from Nashville, Tennessee. The exquisite taste with which they render the melodies dear to the religious and plantation life of the South have favourably impressed all who have had the good fortune to hear them. They are sure of a cordial welcome when they come to Toronto. As they are about to leave in a few weeks for a European trip this will be the only opportunity of hearing them for some time to come.

THE long evenings are here again. The time for meetings and entertainments of various kinds has come. The man who wishes to lecture, or air a hobby, or "speak a word," or have a show, or hold a meeting of some kind will soon be here too. He always turns up in autumn and winter. Quite often he is a humbug or something worse. He is nearly always lazy. He generally lives by his wits, or rather by the want of wit in others. Church people should be very careful about endorsing such wanderers. Any man who has real work to do, and who comes properly certified, should be encouraged in his work; but men who have no recommendation should be given a wide berth. The proprietor of a peanut stand would not engage an assistant unless he knew something about him. A merchant asks recommendations from an applicant for the position of porter. The boy who wishes to carry parcels must have a recommendation. The children of this world are a good deal wiser than some of the children of light. Churches, associations, temperance societies, and all kindred institutions should be very careful about the kind of men they permit to address the wives and daughters of good citizens.

SOME Ontario municipalities seem to labour under the delusion that there is an institution in Toronto in which aged and infirm persons from any part of the Province are cared for. Invalids, persons suffering from incurable diseases, old and deformed people, are frequently put on the cars and shipped to Toronto by friends or by the municipal authorities where the sufferers have resided. The practice is mean, cruel, inhuman. Why should it be supposed that the people of Toronto ought to take care of invalids for outside municipalities when they have the poverty and suffering of a city of ninety thousand people to look after? Why should rich townships that have not more than three or four helpless people within their bounds shirk the duty of taking care of these by sending them elsewhere. The result often is that the aged and suffering are bundled on the cars, and sent to this city: they wander about the streets here in a most pitiable condition only to find that there is neither help nor shelter for them, except help and shelter are provided by the over-taxed charity of the city. This cruel practice should be stopped at once. One good way would be for the Mayor or some city official to publish the name of every municipality that sends its poor and invalid people to Toronto simply to save the expense of caring for them at home.

In his letter last week accepting the Principalship of Manitoba College, Dr. King said:

My difficulty in arriving at the decision has been largely due to the fact that the action of the Assembly was taken, if not in ignorance of considerations which I could not disregard, yet without almost any discussion of them.

Dr. King might have left out the "almost." There was NO discussion of the "considerations" to which the Principal refers. In justice to Dr. King, to the college, to the North-West, and to the whole Church, there should have been a full discussion of the whole question. The plain fact is the Assembly knew little or nothing about the state of the college, financial or otherwise when the appointment was made. Dr. King is perfectly right when he surmises the action of the Assembly was taken in ignorance of the state of the college. A committee reported that Dr. King was the right man for the position. The Assembly ratified the appointment by a round of applause. Half-a-dozen of Dr. King's co-presbyters rose and said some very complimentary things about him, all of which were quite true. A member of Assembly stated he agreed with all that had been said, but thought such appointments ought to be considered by Presbyteries. In this way the thing was done. There was not a word about the condition of Manitoba College. No one asked whether it would not be better for the Church, the students, and all parties concerned, to pay the expenses of Manitoba students to Toronto for the next ten years. These questions have all been asked a great many times since the appointment was made. No one doubts that the appointment is a good one; but we voice the feeling of the Church when we say that the manner of making it was very unfortunate, and, as the result proved, very embarrassing to Dr. King himself. How many members of Assembly knew last June that the college is \$40,000 in debt? How many knew anything about its finances? Perhaps the facts were all before the committee that nominated Dr. King, though not reported to the Assembly. If so, then those who contend that there is too much Assembly work done by committees have another example with which to fortify their contention.

THE effort to establish a Ladies' Medical College in Toronto has met with the most gratifying success. A very suitable building on Sumach street, convenient to the General Hospital, has been secured. As will be seen by a reference to our advertising columns an able and efficient faculty has been appointed. Arrangements have been made for the opening of the institution on the first of October. A large number have already intimated their intention to enroll as students in the Toronto Woman's Medical College. The institution has evoked the interest of many devoted friends, among whom a high place will be accorded to Mrs. McEwan for the zeal she has displayed in behalf of the movement to establish a Medical College for ladies. This new departure in Canadian female education begins under the most favourable and hopeful auspices. The provisional trustees under the Act of Incorporation are: Dr. Barrett, Dr. George Wright, Dr. Adam, H. Wright, Dr. Cameron, and Mrs. McEwan. The election of trustees shall take place annually, and nine shall be appointed, of whom four shall always be selected by the members of the faculty of the college from amongst themselves, and five shall be elected by the subscribers from amongst themselves. Each subscriber who shall have paid a subscription to the funds of the Society since the next previous meeting shall be entitled to one vote at the election for every sum of \$10.00 paid. Every subscriber who shall in any one year pay towards the funds of the college a subscription of \$100 or upwards shall have a right to vote at all annual meetings, according to the scale already mentioned, except that he shall not after the first vote be entitled to more than ten votes at any election. The Board of Trustees shall also by by-law from time to time fix the fees to be paid by students and the salaries to be paid to professors and teachers. Matters touching the conduct and management of the school and the teaching there in shall be arranged by the members of the faculty. The members of the faculty shall be professors of the following subjects: Institutes of Medicine, Practice of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, Materia Medica and Botany, Anatomy and Microscopy, Diseases of the Eye and Ear, Sanitary Science, Medical Jurisprudence, Toxicology, and Chemistry, together with a demonstrator of Anatomy, and such other professors or teachers as may be added by the Board of Trustees. The power of appointing professors and teachers (including the power to dismiss) shall be in a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and of the faculty who are not trustees.

A DISINTERESTED DECISION.

AT the last meeting of Toronto Presbytery Dr. King announced his acceptance of the call addressed to him by the General Assembly to become Principal and Professor of Theology in Manitoba College. The decision arrived at will be received with mingled feelings. Those to whom he has successfully and profitably ministered for so long a time cannot but feel the deepest regret at the conclusion to which he has come. Those more intimately associated with him in various departments of Christian and philanthropic work feel that in his removal there is a deep sense of personal loss. Gifted with a well-balanced mind he was never in the habit of coming to rash conclusions. His views on all practical questions were clear and comprehensive. He could not be easily swayed in his opinions. They were not inconsiderately adopted, and when entertained, would not be parted with without the strongest and most convincing reasons.

However numerous the regrets that he is soon to leave the Province where he has laboured since his entrance on the work of the ministry, there is only one opinion as to his special fitness for the work on which he is now to enter. Amid all the varied claims of a responsible city pastorate—claims he made a duty and a pleasure of meeting conscientiously—Dr. King has maintained the habits and tastes of the earnest student. His many friends have the highest regard for his extensive and varied attainments as a scholar. The same industrious application that characterised him at Edinburgh, Berlin and Halle, has marked his career until now. Nor is Dr. King a mere scholastic recluse, with vast powers of absorption, he is equally as apt to teach as he is to learn. Many, who as students have enjoyed the privilege of his guidance and help in prosecution of their studies, have grateful recollections of student days in Toronto because of the helpfulness received from the disinterested labours of the Rev. John M. King.

Dr. King has been influenced in his decision by one consideration only. He has sought to follow the path of duty. Personal comfort and other legitimate considerations have been subordinated to the desire to follow the Master's will. In leaving an attached and prosperous congregation, a sphere of most extended usefulness in many directions, Dr. King is making sacrifices that a selfishman would never think of making. Now that he has responded to the unanimous call of the Church, as expressed through the supreme court, he has earned a new claim to the respect and esteem with which he has long been deservedly regarded.

It is confidently anticipated that he will occupy the important office to which he has been appointed with distinction and success. Manitoba College is to be congratulated on obtaining the services of a gentleman so admirably fitted to preside over its affairs and to guide the studies of the rising ministry of the Prairie Province. Dr. King carries with him the most cordial good wishes for his personal welfare, and confident expectations of his abundant success in a new field of endeavour for which he is so thoroughly qualified, and that as an able minister of the New Testament he may be honoured in doing good and lasting work for the great King and Head of the Church in a province for which seemingly a glorious destiny awaits.

UNITED METHODISM.

THE Union of the various branches of the Methodist Church in Canada may now be anticipated with confidence. From the inception of the present movement the indications of its satisfactory accomplishment appeared hopeful; although the unanimity with which it was inaugurated and for a time maintained did not continue as the negotiations advanced, nothing really serious calculated to impede the cause of union emerged. Each successive step taken by the various churches has been a step nearer the attainment of the end designed—a united Methodist Church in the Dominion of Canada.

At first it seemed as if the union would be realized without any serious difference of opinion: that the strength of sentiment in favour of the movement, like a great tidal wave, would sweep all before it. This may be due to the strong desire in favour of union existing throughout every section of the Methodist Church in Canada. It is a cheering characteristic of our time that the prevailing spirit of the age favours larger and more comprehensive views of religious