

PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK & ALMANAC.

Edited by REV. JAMES CAMERON, CHATSWORTH, ONT. 122 PAGES. 25 CENTS.

The Argenteuil Reviewer says: "The Year Book is in its second issue, and shows the improvement even to the excellence of the first. It is in short a volume for Presbyterians, and ought to be in the hands of all belonging to the Church, especially its office-bearers. The Christian Era (an Methodist) says: "This is a pamphlet of over 100 pages, giving a large amount of valuable information concerning the Presbyterian denomination of this country. Interest is given by Dr. Kemp, on "Colleges for Young Ladies," by Dr. Patterson on the "New Hebrew Mission," by Dr. Buchanan on "Queen's University and College," and "From Union to Colon," by Rev. Robert Torrance. Additional to the information given respecting the several Presbyterian sections which now form the united Church in the Dominion of Canada, valuable statistics are furnished of Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, in the United States, on the continent of Europe, in Australia &c. The Chapter on "Unions" is particularly valuable, and, as the record of a memorable year in the history of Canadian Presbyterianism, the "Year Book" for 1876 will find a permanent place in the history of this country."

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Toronto

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS. We are under the necessity of holding over Rev. Prof. What's second paper on the "Vulgate." It will keep until next issue. We have a letter from Howick, Que., covering the sum of one dollar, but no name given. Who is the sender?

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1876.

THE NEW LICENSE BILL.

We are glad to notice the promptitude of our Local Government in carrying out the new License Law, and the anxiety which is displayed that it should be honestly carried out and vigorously acted upon. The circulars issued by Mr. Crooks to members of Parliament and others, asking for their co-operation in seeking out and appointing only the best men to administer this law, cannot but give satisfaction to all who are in earnest upon this matter. We trust that the Treasurer will not be disappointed in his honest and well-meant efforts to serve the country and the cause of social reform by asking such co-operation. Let temperance people now everywhere be wide awake and put forth the most strenuous efforts to have the right men appointed, for there cannot be a doubt that, as Mr. Crooks says, "The success of this new effort will mainly depend upon the Board of License Commissioners and the Inspector; it is essential therefore that these offices be filled by persons possessing the highest qualifications," men who know what their powers and duties are, and are resolutely determined to exercise them. We are glad to observe that efforts are being put forth in so many municipalities to reduce the number, or altogether do away with shop licenses, and that in very many instances success is attending the efforts put forth. The important thing is to see that the concession made will be put in force, and as the law now stands there is more hope of this being done. If the measure granted by the Government be utilized to its full extent, and success attend its operations, so that manifest good arises from it, it will be the strongest argument that could be adduced for asking, and the Government for granting, still farther concessions in the future.

In this connection we may notice the interview of the deputation of the Dominion Prohibitory Liquor Law Council with the Premier, Mr. McKenzie. Although Mr. McK. could not promise much, it is satisfactory to observe that he treats the subject with such gravity and earnestness as he evidently does, and has made it to such a degree the subject of study. No one will deny that great practical difficulties surround the treatment of this subject, and these are forcibly pointed out by Mr. McK. We cannot believe, however, that where there is an earnest desire to find some solution of this most difficult and most complicated social problem it will be forever impossible to discover any. What so many minds are in search of, and what a growing number of good men of all classes so earnestly desire, we cannot believe will be found to be unattainable. The tentative measure now being tried in Ontario will be watched throughout the whole country with great interest and anxiety by both friends and foes. Notwithstanding some facts stated by the Premier that are on the face of them, and at first sight, discouraging, we cannot convince ourselves that the temperance sentiment and practice of Ontario at least is not growing and becoming stronger from year to year. The success of this great movement throughout the Dominion cannot fail to depend largely upon the measure of it attained in this Province, and for the sake also of this larger achievement, it especially behoves all who would wish to see a Dominion Prohibitory Law, to exert themselves to the utmost to make the partial experiment in Ontario a triumphant success.

PRESBYTERIAL SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

In the report on Sabbath Schools presented to the last Assembly, the Sabbath School Committee said: "We are fully persuaded that the Sabbath School enterprise demands far more attention from our church courts than at present is given to it, and they ask the Assembly to urge Presbyteries and Synods to give at least one sacred hour to the consideration of a subject so vital, and also to collect statistics, and send tabulated returns to the Assembly's convener." In our issue of Feb. 18th, we published reports of special conferences upon this all-important subject, which had been held by two Presbyteries. We are glad to chronicle anything which indicates the carrying out of the above recommendation of the Assembly, and a growing sense in our church of the prime importance of Sabbath Schools. We have no fault to find with the subjects taken up in the conferences alluded to, or the resolutions reported as part of one of them. Although the subjects taken up have been discussed till they are threadbare, and the resolutions, excellent as they are, are but the repetition of similar ones that have been passed dozens of times before; yet, anything which brings this subject definitely before the minds of ministers, and all the office-bearers and members of our church, cannot but have a good result; and although the same thing may have been done often before, we rejoice to see it done again. It is well known that most of the time at these conferences is taken up in speech-making, and unfortunately also too often ends with that. The amount of actual help given in the efficient practical working of Sabbath Schools is often painfully small as compared with the effort put forth. At some of them, and to some who have attended them, what before appears to be a tolerably plain and straightforward thing, the actual teaching of a class has only become mystified; and in other cases, those present at them as listeners, or who have taken some share of the work, go away, especially if they be sanguine, with a vague kind of self-satisfied feeling that they have had a good time; but how much of positive assistance in the conducting of a school or class they have received, and can bring to bear is much more difficult to point out or discover. The great difficulty after all in Sabbath School work, piety being taken for granted, is that of obtaining persons who know how and what to teach. The great question, therefore, is how to remove this difficulty. We contend, and speak from experience, when we say that, meeting and speech-making over the dozen or half-dozen threadbare subjects usually discussed at these meetings, will never accomplish what is needed, namely, to provide a class of teachers who know how and what to teach. Professedly, this is the chief object of these conventions and conferences, and sure we are they do not, except in the most partial manner, and never will bring about this most-to-be-desired end. What is wanted is to give practical illustrations of good teaching, by persons who are known to be good teachers. One day faithfully spent in this work, under the management of competent instructors, would do more to help teachers and improve the character of our Sabbath Schools in every way, than any amount of mere talking about the thing can possibly do. It is simply impossible, as we believe, to overestimate the importance of the end aimed at by these conventions and conferences; but we submit that, so far as actual assistance in the work of teaching is concerned, and what is of greater importance, what to teach, a teacher's meeting well conducted, or what the Assembly's committee recommend, holding institutes for the training of Sabbath School teachers, would be far more effective. As we most heartily agree with the language of the committee, quoted at the head of this article, we promise again very soon to return to this subject.

KNOX COLLEGE TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION. A public meeting of this Association was held on Monday evening. A racy essay was read by Mr. A. C. Morton. Excellent addresses were delivered by Messrs. W. Amos, F. R. Beattie, Prof. Gregg, and Rev. Wm. Wright. At intervals suitable selections were sung by several of the students. The meeting was a decided success, and expressive of the hearty interest the students take in the Temperance movement.

THE REV. D. MITCHELL, Minister of the Central Presbyterian Church, will preach the funeral sermon of the late Dr. Jennings, in Shaftesbury Hall, next Sabbath evening; service to commence at 7 o'clock.

We have not yet exhausted the stock of photographs on hand, and shall continue sending them out in the order in which we receive subscriptions until further notice. If our readers will kindly make mention of this fact, it will be serviceable to us, and help the circulation of the paper.

DEATH OF THE REV. JOHN JENNINGS, D.D.

Intelligence of the death of Dr. Jennings has long ere this reached a large number of our readers. It has been everywhere received, we feel assured, with sorrow. It has called forth many heart-felt encomiums on the character of the man. The attendance at the funeral of our esteemed friend showed that the community was smitten at the loss sustained by his departure. The fact that clergymen of all denominations and from many parts of the country came to it to manifest their appreciation of their deceased brother, was proof of the high estimation in which he was held. The character of the funeral services, and the number of representative ministers who took part in them, was sufficient to show that no ordinary man had passed away from our midst.

Some time will have to pass away before we can fully realize the death of Dr. Jennings. Though he had practically retired from the pastorate, he yet went out and in amongst us, and took a deep interest in passing events. It was only the other day his voice was heard in Presbytery. Besides, it was but recently the Doctor resigned the Bay St. Church, and we almost hear his familiar voice speaking from his pulpit the words of eternal life. He held, at the period of his death, some of the public appointments with which his fellow-citizens had honored him. It is not without reason, therefore, we think and speak of Dr. Jennings as it were in the harness, up to the last moments of his life. And this suggests the remark that while he was by no means an old man, he was the oldest minister in the city; the venerable Dean Grassott, one of the officiating clergymen at the funeral, being next to Dr. Jennings as to the length of ministry in Toronto. Many who read these words remember but as yesterday the Doctor in all the freshness and vigour of his prime. His tall and commanding figure and raven locks betokened unusual strength and vitality. We thus almost feel that one of our most active clergymen has been taken from us. We realize this all the more when we think of him as actually in the thirty-seventh year of his ministry—a ministry, too, which was wholly spent in the city of Toronto. The impression of worth is made the deeper on our minds while we recall the extent and variety of his labours. He was a watchman on Zion's walls who was always at his post. As a soldier, he was ever ready for the conflict. He was a workman who needed not to be ashamed. He ever proved himself a friend of the poor and needy, being ready, not only with counsels and prayers, but also with his substantial aid and sympathy. Many a good story is told of the Doctor relieving the wants of others. In every philanthropic institution Dr. Jennings took an active interest. He was foremost amongst the 'educationists of the day'—being at one and the same time a trustee of the grammar school, a member of the senate of our university, and holding office in the Council of Public Instruction. Besides all this and much more, he was the laborious pastor of a city charge, faithfully visiting his flock, the welcome companion in the sick-chamber, the adviser in many a difficult case, and the trusty custodian of property left for the behoof of others. He was, of course, the preacher too of the gospel. As such he was an earnest student, a lucid expositor of Scripture, and one who forcibly brought home the truth to the hearts and consciences of his hearers. Nor must we forget that he laboured not singly in Toronto, but during many years over a large extent of territory. Throughout the country the name of Dr. Jennings is a household word. When we add that the doctor was the first minister who went north of Lake Simcoe, our readers may have some conception of the extent and value of his labours. Dr. Jennings was highly respected and greatly beloved by all. Not only was he sincere, honest and honorable, but he was a man of large heart and tender feelings. He was eminently a father, not only of his own household, but towards all who were brought into contact with him. He had a happy way with children, making them feel at home with him. Young men and maidens delighted to look on his kindly face. The poor and suffering came to him with affectionate confidence. Dr. Jennings was one who commended religion by his steadfastness to principle, by his blameless life, by the simplicity of his manner, and by being always the same—kind, loving, true—in season and out of season. Religion with him was natural, not demonstrative. It was quiet and constant rather than loud and ostentatious.

Scotland, we have to thank for this good man. He was born in the Calton of Glasgow in 1814. By reason of the death of both parents, he was while a child removed to the home of his uncle, Rev. John Tindal, Secession minister in the parish of Kilmany, Fifeshire, after whom he was named. He was educated for the ministry

at the Universities of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, was licensed to preach in 1837, and ordained the following year as a Missionary. The young preacher had long before this determined upon being a missionary. Canada at length presented itself as his field. He is thus to be esteemed as one of the early pioneers of the country. The work he chooses for himself was one involving hardship and sacrifice. That he chooses wisely is evident to day as we think of what he has accomplished and the reputation he has acquired. Many honors have been showered upon him in the land of his adoption. Such as his appointment to be the first chaplain of St. Andrew's Society, and also of the first Curling Club of Toronto, and his degree of Divinity conferred upon him by one of the best of the American colleges.

The companion of his labors and the mother of his family survives. Their numerous sons and daughters rise up and call him blessed. If anything, we are sure, were wanting to make them love the memory of their departed father, they must have found it in the genuine expression of regard which was given on Thursday by the large company gathered together to pay their last respects to the departed. But even this was not needed, for they have a conscious feeling of the worth of him who has been removed from their family circle.

Ministers and Churches.

ON Wednesday evening, a soiree was held in North Mara Presbyterian Church. Mr. John Gunn of Thorah, presided. Though the weather was very stormy, there was a good attendance. The speakers were, Rev. J. McNabb, Beaverton; Rev. J. Gray, B.A., Thos Dallas and O. J. Millar, Orillia. The Orillia Methodist Choir, under the leadership of Mr. Wallace, furnished excellent music. The proceeds were for the Manse fund.

ON Wednesday evening last a number of the friends of Rev. D. Cameron, Lucknow, called at the Manse, on behalf of the congregation and took tea with the minister; after which they presented him with a suitable address and a handsome silver tea service, the value of which is about \$75. The Rev. gentleman was very much taken by surprise, but responded to the address in a very feeling and suitable manner. Mr. Cameron has for some time past been labouring very zealously in the good cause for his congregation, and the above presentation speaks of the high estimation in which he is held by his members, and the very acceptable manner with which his labours have been appreciated.—Com.

A very pleasing circumstance transpired on Wednesday evening of last week, at the close of the prayer meeting in the first Presbyterian Church, Brampton, being the presentation of a purse containing \$65, a gift from the ladies of the congregation to their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Pringle. Mr. Fleming, in a few and appropriate words, introduced Mrs. Dranie, who, in the name of the ladies, presented the purse as a slight acknowledgment of their respect and good will. The rev. gentleman made a short but suitable reply. It was also intended to present Mr. Robert McClure with a slight acknowledgment for the services rendered the congregation in having led the psalmody for many years, but that gentleman was prevented by illness in his family from being present, so that Mr. Hartley and Mr. Blain were deputed to carry out the presentation privately. The present consists of a very beautiful and handsome silver tea service, which was very much admired by those present at the meeting.—Com.

A very successful soiree was held in connection with the Presbyterian congregation of St. Paul's, Madoc, on the evening of Monday, the 7th inst. The Church was filled to overflowing. On motion of Rev. D. Beattie, W. Macintosh, Esq., Inspector of schools, was unanimously voted to the chair, the duties of which he discharged with great acceptance. Throughout the evening interesting and instructive addresses were delivered by the Rev. D. Beattie, pastor of the congregation, by A. F. Wood, Esq., Reeve of the Township, E. D. O'Flynn, Esq., Madoc, and also by the Rev. D. Suteland, of Campbellford, and Mr. Macintyre, Agent of the Bible Society. The Madoc choir discoursed some choice music, while many friends from the village and surrounding Churches were present, anxious to manifest feelings of fraternal goodwill towards St. Paul's congregation, to rejoice in their present prosperity, and to testify to the high esteem in which the pastor is held by all classes of the community.—Com.

A TEA-MEETING was held in the Church at Moor Line—Mandaamin congregation—on Wednesday, 31st February. The weather was most unfavourable, yet a large number was present, and a handsome sum realized. An excellent tea, and an efficient staff of speakers caused the evening to pass very agreeably. Nor must the services of the choir be overlooked. It is under the management of Mr. Duncan,

and would be a credit to any place. The fine spirit which prevails, the large increase in the membership of the congregation, together with the fact that both Churches are every Sabbath crowded to overflowing, show that the labours of the pastor, Rev. G. G. McRobbie—are not in vain. A little more than a year ago when Mr. McRobbie took charge of the congregation, its state was very discouraging, now as the result of his unceasing labours it is one of the most thriving country congregations in the Church. The proceeds of the tea meeting are to be devoted to improvements about the manse.—Com.

The soiree and concert in connection with the St. Andrew's Church Sabbath School, Thorah, was held in the Alexandria Hall, Beaverton, on the 10th ult., and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather on account of which several amateurs engaged for the occasion were unable to attend, proved a success. The proceeds amounted to \$100, which will be a welcome addition to the funds of the Sabbath School. Mr. A. Hamilton, chairman, ably and fully discharged the duties devolving upon him. The singing by Mrs. Saunders Miss Taylor, and Mrs. Dr. White, was deserving of the applause awarded them; Mr. A. Muir gave his national patriotic songs with the best effect. Much of the success of the entertainment is to be attributed to the excellent manner in which Mrs. Dr. White presided at the piano, she having volunteered her services in that society. We have no hesitation in stating that it was one of the best entertainments that it was our pleasure to attend in Beaverton.

ON the 9th of January the basement of Free St. John's new Church, Walkerton, was opened for worship. Professor McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, preached three very able and most appropriate discourses. He was assisted in the devotional exercises by the Rev. R. C. Moffat, the pastor. On the following evening a very successful soiree was held in the lecture room. Excellent music was given by the choir, and suitable addresses by Rev. Messrs. Anderson, of Palmerston; McMillan, of Mount Forest; and Dr. Bell, of Walkerton. On the Tuesday evening a crowded meeting of the children was held, when after the usual exercises a spirited address was given by Mr. Moffat upon the "Diseases of the Sunday School and their Remedies." Notwithstanding the very unfavourable roads and weather, the meetings were successful far beyond expectation. The whole building will be finished in a short time; it will then cost about \$10,000. The people of Free St. John's deserve very great credit for saving and finishing such a handsome Church.

The annual report of Knox Church, Ottawa—Rev. F. W. Ferris, pastor—has come to hand. The statement by the Session we gather is the first full and printed report submitted. It contains a brief sketch of the previous history of the congregation, and speaks encouragingly of the progress the Church is making under the present pastor. The report of the temporal or financial committee is not so encouraging. It will be remembered that this Church worked itself into a heavy debt by building a new Church. The depression in business of all kinds has doubtless crippled more or less the resources of many, and accordingly this committee had to report a deficit of income as compared with expenditure. From the straightforward way in which facts are put before the congregation, and the spirit exhibited by the managers as well as by what has already been done by this Church, there can be no doubt but that the present year will show an improvement. The expenditure of last year was \$7,011.88, the estimated expenses of the current year are \$7,818.41.

A VERY successful tea meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, Thamesville, on the 10th inst. Although the weather was unfavourable, the attendance was large, and \$78 was realized. The tea was of superior quality, and the addresses were above the average on such occasions. The chair was ably filled by W. Webster, Esq., of Florence; and the speakers were the Revs. D. L. McKechnie, of Bothwell; J. Donaldson, of Wardsville; C. E. Benson and W. Preston, of Thamesville. Miss Preston presided at the organ, and was assisted by amateur singers of the village, all of whom gave the most unqualified satisfaction. The important event of the evening, however, was the liquidation of the debt on the manse. This amounted to \$442.50, and the whole sum was subscribed in a few minutes. Messrs. John and Robert Ferguson subscribing \$110 each. The congregation of Thamesville, etc., has reason to be proud of its financial prosperity. Since the settlement of its pastor, the Rev. J. Becket, it has made an increase of \$240 per annum in the stipend, built two neat churches, very commodious sheds at one of the stations, and a handsome and substantial brick manse, all within the short period of eight years, and all now free of debt.—Com.

LAST Tuesday evening, says the *Guelph Mercury*, a very successful tea meeting was held in connection with the West