

British American Presbyterian

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NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Rev. Andrew Kennedy very kindly sends us the explanation of the Editor of the Sabbath School Visitor about the expressed wish of that gentleman for the annexation of Canada.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1873.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The terrible shipwreck of the "Atlantic" on the coast of Nova Scotia has been the one sad sensation of the week.

The party fight at Ottawa goes on with varying fortunes. On one of the opposition moving for a committee of enquiry into certain alleged malpractices of the ministers, the Government was sustained in rejecting the motion by a majority of 31.

Gladstone on his return to power has abandoned the Irish University Bill. The great political danger that is making its appearance in the United Kingdom is the formation of an Irish Ultramontane band of members of Parliament, sworn to support or oppose any minister accordingly as he favors or opposes the schemes of the Roman Catholic Church.

KNOX COLLEGE.

The progress made in securing subscriptions for the rebuilding of Knox College is very encouraging. Those who are actively engaged in the work anticipate no difficulty in raising from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars in Toronto, and surely in that case the other parts of the province ought to do the rest with the greatest ease.

As the case stands at present upwards of \$10,000 has been subscribed in Toronto alone, while a few volunteer contributions

have come in from other quarters. There are eight subscriptions of \$1,000 each, while the lowest yet received in the city is \$150. Perhaps the most liberal contribution is one of \$50 from a minister with a very small stipend.

HOW TO RAISE THE MISSIONARY INCOME

Those who have the management of missionary operations know well how difficult it is to provide in any adequate manner the necessary funds. It is the cry everywhere, "We want more money and more men." The fields are everywhere white to the harvest, but from the scanty means at command the harvest is in a great many cases in danger of being left unreaped.

The government of Japan has issued an edict proclaiming toleration to Christianity throughout the empire. It is also endeavoring to form a code of international laws based on the European system.

THE CENSUS—DENOMINATIONAL PROGRESS.

The following summary of the population of Canada "by religions" is taken from the first volume of the census returns for 1871, lately published. It is interesting and may be convenient for future reference.

Table with columns for denomination and population count. Includes categories like ADVENTISTS, BAPTISTS, BRETHREN—CHRISTIAN, CATHOLICS, etc.

Of the whole population more than a third are Roman Catholics. The proportion in Quebec (Lower Canada) being 85 per cent., in Ontario 17 per cent.; in New Brunswick 33, and in Nova Scotia 26 per cent.

The number of Roman Catholics was, when the census was taken, 274,162, or less than a sixth of the whole population of the Province. The proportion was rather more in 1861, and still more in 1851, so that Romanism is scarcely holding its own in this Province.

The various branches of Methodism taken together form for the whole Dominion the next strongest body numerically to the Church of Rome. The Wesleyan branch has advanced most rapidly. In 1851 the Wesleyans in Ontario amounted to 96,640, or about one-tenth of the population.

The Presbyterians of Ontario in 1871 amounted to 856,442, or more than one-fifth, while in Nova Scotia they numbered 106,589, or considerably more than one-fourth of the entire population of the Province.

When we are giving statistics we may add the following:—The total aggregate area of land and inland waters in the four provinces is stated to be 224,120,395 acres superincumbent, or 350,188 square miles, and the lineal extent of sea coast 2,879 miles.

Small table showing population statistics for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

Old St. Giles, Edinburgh, the scene of so many notable transactions in Scotch history, having been closed for a good while to admit of extensive repairs and restoration, was on Sabbath the 9th March re-opened with great éclat for public worship.

Dr. Samuel Miller was selected in the usual way for Moderator of the Free General Assembly which meets at Edinburgh next month. Dr. M. has, however, declined the honour in a letter dated 28 Newton Place, Glasgow, 18th February, 1873.

that neither you nor many other equally honoured brethren will have any sympathy with me in this conviction. This I deeply regret; it is a constant distress to my spirit that it should be so; but so it is. I do not trust that, by the blessing of God, we may yet be brought back to our old most delightful harmony; but, in the present solemn juncture, I dare not consent to preside over an Assembly obviously bent upon taking the course I have indicated.

Dr. Millar is strongly opposed to the "mutual eligibility" scheme. He cannot, however, save his consistency by declining the Moderatorship. He would need to go further and refuse to be a member of the free church altogether.

The Rev. Mr. Knight, of Dundee, has been again before his Presbytery, defending his peculiar opinions on prayer. He has been very successfully answered by the Duke of Argyll, in the last number of the Contemporary Review.

Book Notices

A DISCOURSE ON PREDESTINATION; OR, THE DECREES OF GOD. By the Rev. Geo. Christie; second edition; N. S. Printing Company, Halifax, N. S.—Mr. Christie is one of the fathers of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, a sound theologian, and an able minister of the gospel.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.—Scribner & Co., New York; \$4.00 per annum. The name of its Editor, Dr. J. G. Holland, is a sufficient recommendation of this most popular of American monthlies.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—Harper & Bros., New York; \$4.00 per annum. It is impossible to particularize each of the many articles which appear in the April number of Harper. The first is an interesting account of the people and social life of Santo Domingo, entitled, "The Cradle of the New World."

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY.—Adam, Stevenson & Co., Toronto; \$3.00 per annum. The contents of the Monthly for April would satisfy the most exacting and fastidious. Politics, poetry, fiction, science, travel and criticism furnish the topics in this number, and all are treated with interest and ability.

THE LADIES' REPOSITORY.—Hitchcock & Walden, Cincinnati; \$3.50 per annum. This is not a fashion magazine, as many may imagine, but a family periodical edited by Rev. E. Wentworth, D. D. The April number has two excellent engravings, and contains some three hundred pages of first-class literature.

With regard to the way in which he has discussed the subject, it is to be borne in mind that the discourse was preached to an ordinary congregation, and therefore that we cannot expect the doctrine to be treated with the same fulness as if the work under consideration had been in the form of an ordinary theological treatise; nevertheless Mr. C. has shown us that he not only understands the doctrine, and the way of defending it; but also that he can set it forth in such a manner as not to be above the heads of the common people.

PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM.

This Presbytery met in the Wellington street church, Chatham, on Tuesday, 25th March, Mr. A. W. Waddell, Moderator pro tem. There was a large attendance of ministers and elders. Among the items of business were the following:—Reports were received from the congregations of Tilbury East and Thamesville that in accordance with the recommendation of the Presbytery, they had increased the stipend of their respective ministers to \$600 per annum.

The agitation for a change in the jury system is going on in England as well as in this country. A bill has been introduced into Parliament which reduces the number of jurors from twelve to seven, and allows a majority to convict. But the proposal of the passage was not to be...