...DA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

...al General Assembly.

...e 2.—The General Assembly ...a Presbyterian Church opened ...Kinor Church at eight o'clock, ...g, Rev. W. Reid, in the chair. ...e was large and comprised, ...ingymen at the meetings of ...many of our leading christians ...emblies. Among those present ...the Hon. Messrs. Laird and ...

...ings were opened by singing, ...reading of the Scriptures. The ...ok for his text Psalllippians, 1st ...verse: "What then, notwith-...way, whether in pretence or in ...is preached, I therein do re-...and will rejoice." The Moder-...ted to speak of the earnest-...ter of Paul, showing how the ...intended to injure the Church ...furthering the cause of the ...lesson to be drawn from the ...the preaching at which all ...ith sism, and which should give ...whomsoever it was practised ...ching of Christ. He regretted ...of the age to lose sight of the ...ntal truths of the Gospel, and ...for these more ...y. Another lesson to be drawn ...was the necessity of unity ...tians. We should rejoice ...preached, not only in connec-...own Church, but by others. ...rinions between Churches were ...ed evil, he believed the day ...when they would be unlikely ...ly. It was only when Christ ...however, that they should re-...rise it would be false charity. ...re not equally important, and ...would necessarily be major ...here should be unity in preach-...The more they had of the spirit ...ian, the more they would be ...count of any special progress of ...t. Any special revival of re-...ever it might take place, or ...er agent it might be produced, ...personal application of this ...minister might be the means ...ter souls, while another might ...ry little success. In the latter ...ister should not mourn, or fret, ...ship subordinate self to the glory ...er and the advancement of His ...should rejoice if only God's ...done. His honour promoted, ...ought to the knowledge of His ...nations either now or at some ...period, and their souls ...ed. The work of the Church ...pioneer parts of the world, ...undervalue the importance of ...the ground already gained ...not lose sight of the many and ...difficulties which lay before ...and, above all, the importance ...ing such a position as to enable ...ished the usefulness necessary ...ence and prosperity of the ...a position would make them ...more the honored instruments ...ds to hasten the time when the ...Lord shall be established ...ains, and his name shall be ...nations, kindreds, peoples, and ...

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...Mr. Rennie, of Chatham, Ont., ...announced as the nominee of the ...Moderators for the position of ...for the ensuing term. He was ...by the Rev. Robt. Campbell, of ...permission of the authorities at head ...quarters, is to be kept open for ten days be-...yond the usual termination of the seasons.

...Mr. Plamondon has proceeded to Ottawa, ...a petition for a commutation of the ...sentence upon Schmidt, condemned to death ...twenty to twenty-five years in the Penitentiary. ...en at the lowest price they are much ...cheaper than potash; for a bushel of good ...has been used ashes will furnish five pounds of ...potash, besides the soda, lime, &c., which ...they contain. The ashes are a classic country ...ests of woodsmen are all valuable fertilizers, ...and we are satisfied there is nothing so economical and efficient as composting with ...muck. The latter furnishes the organic ...matter for the soil, rendering it light and ...porous, ready to absorb the water and ameliorating influences of the air, or mineral ...ashes, or manure, with it, so as to make it ...the natural solid and start it on the process ...of decay. Very likely, also, he placed it on ...warm sandy land, deficient in organic ...matter, and requiring some porous substance ...to retain moisture and ammonia. He should ...expect good results in this case. In regard ...with potatoes, the crop might be equal, gos-...sibly superior, and consequently the cost ...injured, and the game ended with the fifth ...innings. One had his finger broken, another ...had his jaw broken, and others had knocked ...out, and the third received a severe cut ...on the head, which occasioned a fatal result.

CANADIAN.

A during burglary took place at Hamilton ...on Monday morning.

On the 20th ult., five raftsmen were ...drowned in a rapid on the St. Anne River.

Mr. G. L. Walker, editor of the Perth ...Courier, died on Monday from typhoid fever.

The steamer Faraday landed the new ...cable on the coast of Nova Scotia last Saturday.

A new chancel is to be added to St. ...George's Cathedral, Kingston, at a cost of ...$4,000.

Vice Chancellor Strong has been appointed ...Senior Justice of the Ontario Court of ...Chancery.

A serious riot occurred in Limerick on Sunday, owing to the populace making an attack upon the Militia.

It is whispered in official circles in Paris ...that the neutrality of Luxemburg is again ...threatened by German intrigue.

The ship Brindale, now bound to Melbourne from Liverpool, has been lost on ...King's Island, seventy lives being lost.

An interesting debate took place in the ...Imperial House of Commons on Monday in ...relation to the proposed decrease of the ...salary of Sir E. Thornton, British Minister ...at Washington. The salary has been £5,000 ...per annum.

AMERICAN.

An alarm of fire was given on Saturday ...night which produced a panic in the State ...Lunatic Asylum, Harrisburg, Pa.

A report of the crops in the Western ...States published by the Chicago *Times* ...shows a highly favorable record.

A man who committed a murder in Tennessee on Saturday, with a view of robbery, ...was promptly hanged by the citizens.

The Hartford base ball club is called the ...Nutmeg," but the Boston nine, says the ...*Globe* of that city, proved itself a green ...

Engineer Henry W. Wilson testified to ...the weakness of the dam, confirming the ...opinion in that respect expressed by the experts.

AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER NOTES.

MUCK.

ITS ORIGIN, USES AND ABUSES.

By Alexander Hyde.

The great peat or muck swamps which abound in the temperate zones of the earth are the results of the gradual decay, growth of vegetable matter under water. The varieties of muck are numerous, depending mainly on the kind of vegetable matter which is undergoing slow decomposition. The age of the muck bed and its continuous submersion also affect its character. Some beds are so situated that they receive a large washing of sand and clay from the surrounding uplands, and in the valleys of some rivers we find muck covered to the depth of several feet with alluvial soil. This is generally compressed into quite a solid state, and has something the appearance of anthracite coal. The theory of some is that the great coal deposits of the earth are simply the muck beds of the carboniferous period, covered and compressed with the upheavals of nature. However this may be, it is certain that muck may be compressed and dried artificially so as strikingly to resemble mineral coal, and to burn almost equally well.

We have said that all muck is of vegetable origin, and that the varieties depend mainly on the kind of vegetable matter of which they are composed. We have seen muck which was evidently made up from bog-moss and other low aquatic plants. This is generally of inferior quality. In old and deep muck-beds we often find this moss-formed peat at the bottom still retaining its mossy nature, as the water and pressure of the incumbent matter have prevented the access of air and the consequent destruction of its fibre. Over this mossy muck often lies another layer, evidently originating from a higher form of vegetable growth, such as rushes, sedges, and coarse aquatic grasses and weeds. On top of this we find remains of bushes and leaves, and the surface of surface water-soaked trunks and branches of trees; sometimes such, the pine entirely gone, but the shell and form perfectly preserved. In a muck swamp, which we have worked for a quarter of a century, we have found butternuts at the depth of three or four feet, which looked as though they might be two or three years old. Exposed to the air, these soon crumbled into mould. In the surface of a muck swamp, which for some months in summer is not covered with water, we find the vegetable matter pretty well decayed and some good grasses or large bushes and trees growing.

To an observing eye the muck beds, therefore, tell their own history. First comes the bog-moss, which flourishes best when immersed in stagnant water, and, being an annual, rapidly fills up the morass with its remains, thus forming a foothold for the rushes, sedges, and other aquatic plants, which in turn decay partially, lifting the bed further toward air and light. At last alders and other bushes and finally large trees grow where once were lakes and lakelets. This process of filling lakes with vegetable remains is the work of ages, but we see its progression on the borders of many stagnant waters, the depth of which is decreasing and the boundaries of which are gradually being encroached upon by deposits of vegetable matter on which alders are growing.

These muck swamps seem to have been stored by a kind of Providence with rich organic matter for agricultural purposes, much as the coal fields have been laid up for the manufacturers. The preservation of these peat and muck beds against a time of need, when the organic matter in our soils has been greatly diminished by ploughing and cropping, is due not to the fact that they are the moss part they are immersed in water, but also to the large amount of tannic acid which they contain.

The first step, therefore, to be taken in the preparation of muck for a fertilizer is to expose it to the air and, by ammonia or some other alkali, neutralize the acid. Many have taken cold, over muck directly from the swamps on to their fields, and have been disappointed that they did not derive benefit from it such as they obtain from barnyard manure. There is no difficulty in accounting for the results complained of by those who have tried the value of muck. One pronounces it equal to stable manure, and another calls it worthless. The first, in his experiment, probably took muck from the surface of his swamp where it had been exposed to the ameliorating influences of the air, or mixed ashes, or manure, with it, so as to neutralize the tannic acid and start it on the process of decay. Very likely, also, he placed it on warm sandy land, deficient in organic matter, and requiring some porous substance to retain moisture and ammonia. He should expect good results in this case. In regard with potatoes, the crop might be equal, possibly superior, and consequently the cost injured, and the game ended with the fifth innings. One had his finger broken, another had his jaw broken, and others had knocked out, and the third received a severe cut on the head, which occasioned a fatal result.

1. *Paper Bandages.*—Common straw wrapping paper, from twenty to twenty-five cents a bundle. Each bundle contains 240 sheets, and each sheet folded lengthwise and cut into three pieces, which are 8 inches wide, and between two and three inches wide, and be long enough to encircle most trees. It is easily drawn, and is tied on and fastened with a tack, and so cheap that when the time comes for the use of a dozen such bandages containing them may be detached, piled in a heap, and burned, and fresh ones applied. The cost of labor in the two years ago are said to reach tree during the season, the cost will be but little more than one, and the owners could well afford to treble the number of sheets and keep three on each tree, either together or in different places.

2. *Rags.*—These have very much the same use as paper, but are more costly and difficult to get of the requisite length. Where they can be had cheaply, they may be used to advantage, and, if well washed in their contents, or passed through a clothes-wringer and neat again.

3. *The Wire rap*, which has been figured and described in *The Tribune*, and which consists of pieces of wire, one end fast to the tree, is, perhaps, the next most convenient, but both cost and time required to destroy the woman and children of vegetable life in the methods, and traps attached to one side of a tree, can never be efficient as those which encircle it.

4. *The latch-bolt*, consisting of strips of old sash, four inches wide, three of the pieces were injured, and the game ended with the fifth innings. One had his finger broken, another had his jaw broken, and others had knocked out, and the third received a severe cut on the head, which occasioned a fatal result.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

EUROPEAN.

Another prominent Communist has escaped from New Caledonia.

Prince Bismarck is slowly recovering his health from his illness at Varzin.

The Prince of Saxe Weimar narrowly escaped assassination in London on Monday.

The Catholic Clergy of Paris have been entertaining the pilgrims from the United States.

A serious riot occurred in Limerick on Sunday, owing to the populace making an attack upon the Militia.

It is whispered in official circles in Paris that the neutrality of Luxemburg is again threatened by German intrigue.

The ship Brindale, now bound to Melbourne from Liverpool, has been lost on King's Island, seventy lives being lost.

An interesting debate took place in the Imperial House of Commons on Monday in relation to the proposed decrease of the salary of Sir E. Thornton, British Minister at Washington. The salary has been £5,000 per annum.

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A man who committed a murder in Tennessee on Saturday, with a view of robbery, was promptly hanged by the citizens.

The Hartford base ball club is called the "Nutmeg," but the Boston nine, says the *Globe* of that city, proved itself a green ...

Engineer Henry W. Wilson testified to the weakness of the dam, confirming the opinion in that respect expressed by the experts.

THE KIRK SYNOD.

The Question of Union.

June 2.—The Kirk Synod opening evening in St. Andrew's Church, ...street. The attendance was good ...about 100 persons being present, ...ition were ministers.

...ing Moderator of the Kirk Sy-...Rev. James Patterson, of Hem-...Quebec. In delivering his vale-...took his text from Corinthians, ...and 5th verses. In consulting ...on the duties of Christian minis-...ferred to the proposed union of ...Canadian Churches. He said what-...ions had to be made and difficul-...ed, there was the Church should be ...self and to her work, and faithful ...he had appointed her. Negotia-...tions had been going on among the ...congregations, and he took an oppor-...ity in contemplating the success of ...negotiations either now or at some ...period, and their success ...ed the work of the Church ...pioneer parts of the world, ...undervalue the importance of ...the ground already gained ...not lose sight of the many and ...difficulties which lay before ...and, above all, the importance ...ing such a position as to enable ...ished the usefulness necessary ...ence and prosperity of the ...a position would make them ...more the honored instruments ...ds to hasten the time when the ...Lord shall be established ...ains, and his name shall be ...nations, kindreds, peoples, and ...

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COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO.

Meeting of Medical Council.

Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock, the first sitting of the annual meeting of the Medical Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario was held in the Council Chamber of the Court House, Dr. William Clarke, of Guelph, occupying the chair.

Dr. Pyne, Registrar, read the roll of members present, the minutes of the last meeting, and the minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The following is the list of members of the Council, the gentlemen appointed as Homœopathic representatives refusing, however, to act:

TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES.—E. G. Edwards, M. D., Strathroy, Western and Huron; J. Rae, M. D., Toronto, Simcoe, Stratford, Malahide and Tecumseh; W. Clarke, L.R.C.S., Ireland, Guelph, Saugeen and Bruce; J. Ryerson, M. D., Toronto, Gore and Thames; John Lawrence, L.M.R., Toronto, Niagara; Hugh Sloane, John D. Macdonald, M.D., L.R.C.S., Edinburgh, Hamilton, Burlington and Home; Robt. S. Wm. Orton, M.D., Aurora, Midland and Victoria; Wm. Ruttan, M.D., Cobourg, Ontario; Geo. Gibson, M.D., L.R.C.S., Edinburgh, Newcastle; Geo. Ryerson, M.D., Toronto; C. V. Berryman, A. M., M. D., Yorkville, University of Victoria College; Geo. Sheppard, M.D., Gananoque, University of Queen's College; F. M. Hodder, M. D., F. R. C. S., Toronto, University of Trinity College; W. T. Aikins, M. D., Toronto, Toronto School of Medicine; M. Lavell, M. D., Kingston, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston.

REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE.—G. Sigle Carson, M. D., Whitby; Seth S. Cornell, M. D., Toronto, Out.; Jos. Morrison, M. D., Toronto; Geo. Malcolm, M. D., Toronto; David P. Rogers, L. E. M. B., Carleton Place.

The Chairman said there was only one matter of importance to come before the Council—the election of a President. He was dent, and that was a communication from Dr. A. A. Grant, respecting the appointment of a Medical Inspector, in which it was stated that letters were received and read from English practitioners stating that their services might be legalized in Ontario. In order to meet this and similar cases he had prepared a resolution, which he would read. "That the foregoing communication be laid on the table, and that a committee be appointed to report at the next meeting of the Council, to consider the expediency of allowing such persons to practice in this province, and to report what, if any, legislation is necessary to enable the Council to do so." He was sorry that the Council had not taken the matter up before, when it was in a better position to deal with it. He regretted that the present Council had not taken it in hand, but it was time that it was at Detroit, and while the meeting could not be postponed, yet he hoped that an adjournment would be made. Members who paid a visit to Detroit could be back by Monday.

After some discussion on this matter, it was allowed to drop.

Dr. Clarke then rose and said that there was some very important legal business to come before the attention of the Council. When in the House of Assembly he had met with several medical gentlemen who had not been supplied with certificates, although, in some cases, practising for eighteen or twenty years. The law here was strangely strict, and many practitioners could be punished, as it now stood, for not acting in the Province. Gentlemen who had pledged themselves to see action taken on this matter, which required a great deal of investigation both by the Educational and Legislative Committees. He recommended that a special Committee be appointed to do the work, and that it should be ready next medical men legally stood.

The Council then adjourned, it being 4.30, till 7.30.

Evening Session.

At the evening session the minutes of the previous session were read and confirmed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Clerk read the following communications:

From Thomas Clarkson McConkey, giving information respecting the course of medical studies through which he had gone, and praying that he might, upon the payment of the fees, be admitted to the registration, as required by the Ontario Medical Act.

A similar petition was read from Mr. Elswood Chaley, of Goderich.

The communications were referred to the Educational Committee.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HOMŒOPATHISTS.

Dr. J. Mullin presented the following report of the Committee appointed to consider the Homœopathists: "The Committee beg respectfully to report that the communications which have been received of the non-acceptance of the resignation of the Homœopathic representatives, on the ground of unfair treatment of their section on the part of this Council, having been maturely considered, the Committee, in the discharge of their duty, have to report as follows: Long will the people of Bilbao remember the day the last mail steamer ascended the Nervion on the 29th of December. That night the river was interrupted in Zorroza by strong chains, stretched across the Nervion, and the various steamships had to make a hasty retreat down Portugalete and Santurce. The next morning the garrison proved the enemy's presence at Zorroza. The blockade was raised, however, by a general rising of the people, who had been a captain of engineers in the past war, and who had been appointed for his services as the most likely officer to defend a besieged town. M. Castelar and Olamea, Republicans of the extreme left, are probability of the Carlists trying to sit down under the walls of Bilbao. General Castillo is a respectable force of engineers and artillery, besides a force of regularly organized body of volunteers. A strong wall, loopholed and bastioned, ran round the town. Has the first days of the Carlist rising and Arenal had been turned into redoubts. Forty-three years ago, Bilbao was the only town, and the Carlists, on the 22nd March, 1874, made a determined attempt to take it. Bilbao is built upon both banks of the Nervion, and the most important part of the town is on the left bank. The Carlists, under Archanda, Aragon and San Domingo, were in possession of the suburbs, which, with works, and every part of the enemies and forts could be commanded from these positions. The Carlists had established themselves, and the first three weeks of January passed without any incident, the Carlists would bring in a few newspapers, and on the 17th a number of the *Transe Sol* imparted the news of the Madrid and Cartagena riots. On the 23rd March the besieged heard that Serrano had left Portugalete and Deserto. Dorregaray began a summons and a summons to surrender, but General Castillo replied that he would hold out, and would hold out as long as possible. On the 28th of January a few foreigners were allowed to come, and they brought a version of the English and French consuls. The English and French consuls, with their respective cruisers, had been allowed to enter the besieged town, but General Castor Andecha, the Republican Governor, had sent women or children leaving the place. Some of the Republicans had broken back by some Carlist outposts. When February began a council of war held in Durango had decided that Bilbao should be blockaded and its operations. From that moment the blockade was more strictly enforced, and not even the English consuls were allowed to cross the lines. Night and day the forts of Mono, Cabras, Pinedo, Arenal, and Ollar, on the Carlists, who were attempting to get hold of every house, hill, or cover nearer Bilbao. Bilbao, in the meantime, and cattle began to fall in a alarming way for the inhabitants. Long will the people of that month General Valdespina sent in a summons to surrender, declaring that on the 10th March he would attack the Carlist positions which would virtually leave the Homœopathy body representative for a period of one year. (2) The Ontario Medical Council regrets that a section of the medical profession should, coming this body of unfairness, is in terms of the resolution of the Council, and the possibility to estimate at their proper value the charges thereto made. The Council has received from the Homœopathic representatives other than the most liberal, or at least, fair, in the circumstances, and complaining other than the most impartial. But to any sensible change a considerable hearing and a fair trial should be given. Nothing would therefore suggest that the members of the Homœopathic section should avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the non-acceptance of the resignations by Homœopathists to lay before them the precise grievance under which they deem themselves to suffer, with a view to the consideration of some relief may be within the power of this Council."

The report was adopted without discussion.

ENGLISH PRACTITIONERS IN ONTARIO.

Dr. Mullin presented the first report of the Education Committee, in which it was stated that letters were received and read from English practitioners stating that their services might be legalized in Ontario. In order to meet this and similar cases the Committee had prepared a resolution, which they open to the ...

Dr. Hodder, Dr. Lavell, and Dr. Ryerson were appointed a committee to report on the Medical Inspector.

Dr. Ryerson moved, seconded by Dr. Hodder, that Dr. Lavell be appointed President of the Council.

Dr. Berryman, Dr. Dewar moved, seconded by Dr. Bogart, that the President be elected by ballot.

Dr. Bethune argued whether the members of the University of Ottawa were qualified to act as representatives of the Council, and they were.

Dr. Clarke said no doubt many members of the Council wished to go to Detroit to see the professional men of the city, as they had received an invitation. He regretted that the present Council had not taken up the matter, and had done it at the meeting