

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

— PUBLISHED BY THE —

Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Company

(C. BLACKETT ROBINSON),

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TERMS: \$2 per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISING TERMS.—Under 3 months, 10 cents per line, per insertion, 3 months, \$1 per line, 6 months, \$1.50 per line, 1 year, \$2.50. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th, 1888

THE *Interior* joins the New York *Evangelist* in asking that the next meeting of the Presbyterian Council, after that of next June, take place in Toronto. Our Chicago friend very cordially seconds the *Evangelist's* motion, reproduced on another page. It was hardly THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN that offered reception and entertainment. The offer was made by the Presbyterians of Toronto. We merely put the motion to the different members of the great Presbyterian family throughout America. Now that the motion has been duly seconded by such an influential member of the family as the *Interior*, we think we may soon declare it "carried." The only place from which a formidable amendment is likely to come is Montreal. Montreal Presbyterians have a surplus amount of energy, which, if fairly set agoing, might seriously damage the chances of Toronto. Meantime, let everybody assume that the Council will meet in Canada, and the claims of Toronto and Montreal can be adjusted in London next June.

If some political papers in Ontario that we could name should publish a paragraph like the following, they would be instantly accused of being "in league with Rome":

The Province ought to congratulate itself in having at its head in Mr. Mercier one who is not only a consummate politician—which, indeed, is not much of a title to admiration—but who is also a patriot who desires that his rule should be marked by measures that will ameliorate the condition of the people.

This is from the staid old Montreal *Witness*, a journal that has devoted all its strength and its whole life time to fighting against Romish aggression. We have always regarded Mr. Mercier as a "consummate politician" of extraordinary dash and nerve, but we never could get up as much enthusiasm for him as the venerable *Witness* seems to have. We hope Mr. Mercier will show that he desires the good opinion of the *Witness* by giving the Protestants of Quebec fair-play. They want no more, and Mr. Mercier should not ask them to take any less.

It is greatly to be regretted that the vote on the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act was brought on at such an unfavourable time. In the Northern Counties some of the roads are practically impassable. Most of the snow that was packed upon them by half-a-dozen storms, as high as the adjoining fences, is there still, and no kind of conveyance can go over it in safety. The town vote will be pulled of course, but the vote in many townships must of necessity be light. This is a most unfortunate mistake, as everybody wants to know exactly what the people who have tried the law for three years think about it. In any country in which the voice of the people is law, every facility should be given them for making their voice heard. It is quite easy to sit in an office in Toronto or Ottawa and say "the people should do this, or that, or the other." If the men who talk glibly in that way had to take a trip over some of the roads in the northern parts of Bruce, or Simcoe, or Renfrew this week they would know a good deal more about the difficulty of supporting the Scott Act than some of them do at present.

MEDITATION on the following powerful and pathetic passage from one of Bushnell's sermons might

do some ministers more good than bringing their troubles before the Presbytery: "Expect then to have your part with Jesus in Gethsemane. Come in freely hither, tarry ye here and watch. Out of His agony learn how to bear an enemy, what to do for your enemy and God's. If your intercessions sometimes turn to groans, if you sometimes wonder that, being a Christian, you are yet so heavily, painfully burdened, almost crushed with concern for such as you are trying to save, let your comfort be that so you drink indeed your Master's cup. If your love is repelled with scorn and your good work baffled and your heart grows heavy under sorrow and discouragement—ready to sink under its load—come hither and pray with Jesus in His sweat of blood. Let this cup pass from Me. If wickedness grows hot in malice round you, if conspiracy and violence array themselves against you, go apart into this Gethsemane of your Lord's troubles, and be sure that some good angel shall be sent to strengthen you; is not Christ's heart wringing for you more bitterly than yours for itself?—tarry ye here and watch."

WHATEVER may be the ultimate result of the great debate on Reciprocity it should have one good immediate effect: it should teach Canadians to set a higher estimate on the ability of our leading public men. There were ten or a dozen speeches delivered during this debate that compare quite favourably with the best efforts of recent years in the American Congress or the British House of Commons. Of course we have no Gladstone, but there is only one Gladstone in England. There is a class of people in Canada who think all English members of Parliament are Gladstones, all English preachers Spurgeons, all Scotch preachers Guthries, and all Irish ministers Cookes. These good souls never spent an evening in the Imperial House of Commons when the average member was having his "innings," nor did they ever worship in many of the churches of the dear old land. Had they ever done either one or the other they would be less inclined to overrate everything across the water and belittle everything and everybody in Canada. There are some very able men in the Dominion Parliament even when Mr. Blake and Sir Charles Tupper are not in their places. There was a vast amount of useful information as well as many good specimens of robust reasoning in some of the late speeches. No young Canadian could read them carefully without mental improvement.

As we go to press the electors of seven counties are preparing to go to the polls to vote for or against the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act. It is impossible to predict the result. The new Franchise, the "still-hunt" of the anti-Scott men, and the bad roads, are all factors that tend to make it more than usually difficult even to guess at the state of the poll when it closes. Years ago when the Scott Act wave was passing over Ontario THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN said that one thing was proved beyond all manner of doubt. That one thing was that a large majority of the people of this Province wished to restrict the liquor traffic within narrow limits, and that many—perhaps a majority—wished to abolish it altogether. We hold the same opinion still, and we shall continue to hold it if the Scott Act is repealed in the seven counties that are voting upon it this week. Repeal would simply mean that a certain number of the friends of the Act are disappointed with the manner in which it worked. Merely that, and nothing more. The people who voted for the Act three years ago are not any more friendly to the liquor traffic than they were. Some of them, however, may have, at least for the time being, lost confidence in the Scott Act, and may stay at home instead of going to the polls. A few may vote against it who voted for it three years ago. Disappointment with the working of the Scott Act does not necessarily mean friendliness to the liquor traffic. Perhaps those who are disappointed with the Act expected too much.

## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

THE Presbyterian College, Montreal, is an institution that holds its own. Not only so, but it is making vigorous advances year by year. It is managed with prudence and energy, and possesses a staff of instructors that shed lustre on the denomination, a large part of whose ministry it most efficiently equips for the work to which its students devote themselves. Its

annual convocation, held the other week, marks an important point in its progress. Twelve young men graduated this session, the largest number in its history. In his address on the occasion, Principal MacVicar stated that all, with one exception, were university graduates, a fact which shows that not only many in the Presbyterian Church are desirous of seeing a thoroughly educated ministry, but that thoughtful and earnest students are themselves convinced that advantage ought to be taken of all opportunities for a complete mental training. In this connection the learned Principal also referred to the fact that systematic efforts were being made to elevate the general standard of scholarship, and that the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity had been raised, and with good reason, he added that the general sentiment in the Church and the alumni of the college would heartily approve of the advance that had been made.

An interesting part of the evening's proceedings was the conferring academic distinctions on the meritorious recipients. For the degree of B.D., the following gentlemen were presented: Rev. N. Waddell, Russell, Quebec; Rev. G. J. A. Thompson, B.A., Mr. M. MacLennan, B.A., and Mr. A. S. Grant, B.A. Those who had passed the first examination for the same degree were: Rev. J. Anderson, East Williams, Ont.; Mr. A. McWilliams, B.A.; Mr. J. L. Hargrave, B.A.; Mr. J. C. Martin, B.A.; Mr. J. H. Higgins, B.A.; and Mr. D. L. Dewar, B.A. The higher distinction of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. G. E. Ackerman, B.D., Ph.D., Buffalo, who underwent a satisfactory examination for the degree. The same degree, *causa honoris*, was also bestowed on the Rev. James Watson, A.M., Huntingdon, Quebec; the Rev. Robert H. Warden, Montreal, and the Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and the North-West. The pastor of Huntingdon is a man of singular modesty and worth and of superior scholarly attainment, who has spent many years in the same congregation in the faithful discharge of his pastoral duties, and has taken an active but unostentatious part in the general work of the Church. Concerning Dr. Warden, there will be general concurrence in the remarks made by the Rev. James Barclay on presenting him for the distinction, that he was a gentleman of high integrity and business capacity, and that his name was a household word throughout the Dominion. Nor was the third recipient of the honour less deserving. To his untiring energy, tact and fidelity the prosperous condition of Presbyterianism in Manitoba and the North-West is largely due. May these brethren long be spared to wear the distinction their valuable services have clearly merited!

Principal MacVicar referred to the needs of the college, increased accommodation being urgently required. Addition to the teaching staff is becoming a necessity, and the improvement of the library is also a matter of solicitude to those interested in the welfare of the institution. Grateful acknowledgment was expressed by the benefactions that friends of sacred learning had bestowed. A bequest of \$2,000 was made by the late Mr. John Drysdale, of Ottawa, and important gifts to the library had been received. No fewer than 230 volumes had been donated. Of these 103, chiefly on missionary subjects, were presented by Mr. James Croil, the esteemed editor of the *Monthly Record*. The conductors of the *College Journal* gave thirteen volumes, and Mr. W. Drysdale, fifteen. The most valuable donation to the library is thus referred to by a Montreal contemporary:

The rare and costly Polyglot Bible, to which Principal MacVicar alluded, was examined afterward with curious interest by many of those who were present on that occasion. It consists of six folio volumes, each of which bears the date 1657; and, although the donor has had the binding slightly retouched in one or two places since the arrival of the work in Montreal the whole set is in most excellent condition. This London (or Walton's) Polyglot is not only more recent, but it is also far more valuable for reference than either the Spanish, French or Belgian Polyglots by which it was preceded. It contains the full text both of the Old and New Testaments, the following languages being placed side by side in parallel columns, viz., Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Syriac, Arabic and Ethiopic. The Rev. Mr. Jordan has, moreover, increased greatly the value of his gift by adding to it Costell's *Lexicon Heptaglotton*, a dictionary of the several different tongues above enumerated, and a unique work in its way. It is bound, uniformly with the rest of the set, in heavy embossed leather. The college authorities cannot but feel indebted to the pastor of Erskine Church for this renewed proof of his interest in the welfare of this prosperous Presbyterian institution. Only last year he presented to the same library a handsome