

Our Contributors.

SOME PHRASES THAT OUGHT TO HAVE A REST.

BY KNOXIAN

In the newspapers, in the pulpit and on the platform old, threadbare, hackneyed phrases are frequently used that ought to be decently buried or at least to have a long vacation. These phrases must be tired and people of average taste are tired of hearing and seeing them.

"Esteemed contemporary" is an editorial phrase that has been worked quite long enough. It has seen service in almost every newspaper in the country and the editors might give it decent burial. Editors are hard working men as a rule and they should have pity on a phrase that has been over-worked for years.

"Augean stable" is another phrase that has been worked very much in Canadian newspapers. It has also been worked vigorously and often on the political stump. Many a long year has passed since we heard or read of somebody who proposed to clean the Augean stable. If the stable is not clean by this time there must be something decidedly wrong with the disinfectants used or the stable must have passed the line at which cleaning is possible. Better close up the stable or pull it down altogether.

Correspondents often begin their letters with a reference to your "valuable paper." "Valuable paper" might be sent to grass along with its twin brother "your widely circulated journal."

"Bribery and corruption" is a sickening phrase often found in Canadian journals. Unfortunately it is the proper phrase to use in too many cases but its frequent use lessens its force and deadens the public conscience to the enormity of the offences which the phrase describes.

"I am glad to be here" is a tea meeting phrase that ought to be allowed well-earned repose. It has helped many a lame orator over the first sile of his tea meeting oration. Besides its long continued use, this phrase has sometimes been forced to do work the ethical propriety of which is at least doubtful. There is always a terrible possibility that the orator who begins with "Mr. Chairman, I am glad to be here" has not long before declared tea meetings to be a nuisance. Let "I am glad to be here" have a rest. The poor fellow is as thin and faded and weary as a canal horse.

"On this occasion" is another platform phrase that might be rusticated for a season of indefinite length. "Mr. Chairman, I am glad to be present with you on this occasion," and to take part in your meeting "on this occasion," and to address you "on this occasion," and to meet my friends on the platform "on this occasion," and to hear their addresses "on this occasion," and to see you in the chair "on this occasion," and to hear such good music "on this occasion." Let "on this occasion," go for a long holiday and take for his companion "on this auspicious occasion."

"Macedonian cry" is not a bad kind of a phrase for a missionary meeting but it becomes rather monotonous when you hear it at every missionary meeting for fifteen or twenty years. The best of horses may become so jaded that they should have their shoes taken off and be turned out to pasture. Even a locomotive needs occasional rest.

"Especially to the convener" has done great service in our church courts. "Mr. Moderator, I move a vote of thanks to the committee especially to the convener," is a kind of speech that Presbyterian ministers are as familiar with as they are with their Homer or their Hebrew Bibles—to put the matter safely. Any change in the form of this overworked expression "especially to the convener" might be regarded as an innovation, so the phrase must work on for a century or two longer.

"Use and wont" is a hoary old ecclesiastical phrase with strong Presbyterian affinities. There was a time when one

could kill anything dead as Julius Cæsar by saying that it was contrary to "use and wont." Anything in accordance with "use and wont"—taking a horn for example—was right enough, but anything not in strict accordance with the twins "use and wont," was sure to be voted down. The twins are not quite as vigorous as they once were. They need a rest and common sense might supply there place while they are taking their holidays.

"In our midst" is the toughest old phrase in existence. It dies as slowly as a snake's tail. Many a long year has passed since George Paxton Young used his splendid powers in trying to kill that barbarism but it is here yet. It should have an immediate funeral but people persist in keeping it alive.

Had Homer known that Scylla and Charybdis were to be trotted around for three thousand years does anyone suppose he would ever have hitched them up. Let them enjoy a rest along with that other pair, the "devil and the deep sea."

Many other well worn veterans need a rest but lack of space prevents us from saying a friendly word in favor of giving them a vacation.

Moral Whenever you are about to use a weary, thin, over-worked phrase remember the poor old fellow needs a rest and give him one.

JUBILEE OF KNOX CHURCH OTTAWA.

The following is the address of Sir James Grant, K.C.M.G., M.P., M.D., on the occasion of the above Jubilee, held on the 13th inst.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

It is to me a source of great pleasure to be present at the Jubilee of Knox Church, and I desire to thank the committee for the honor bestowed upon me, of inviting me to take some small part in the proceedings of this evening. Let me say you are to be congratulated on the marked success which has attended your efforts on this auspicious occasion. We are not assembled to discuss church history or government, but in order to join together, as one people, in expressing our sympathy with the great church work, now in progress, not alone in Ottawa city, but throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion of Canada. What a remarkable change, has taken place within the past fifty years. The record of the growth and progress of Knox Church, as presented in the able document read by Mr. Henderson, is an evidence of untiring energy, zeal and marked ability, all of which united in bringing this church, and so very successfully, to its fiftieth year; and in this noble work it is gratifying to know you have the best wishes of the entire community. We are living in times when over the whole world, there is a manifest longing for fraternal unity. Conventions are being held in every direction at which representative men meet, to compare notes and interchange ideas. The kingdom of God on earth is presented as one; and what is of essential benefit to *one church*, in course of time, becomes the property of all.

We are living in a peculiar time, a time pregnant with error as well as advanced religious thought. Agnosticism endeavors to occupy a space, and would-be scientists now and then disturb the public mind with theories as untenable as they are abstruse. Fortunately the education of the present day is such that a line of demarcation is readily drawn between what are sound and unsound principles. Throughout the various kingdoms of nature, how perfect is their structure. In plant and in animal, the finest sub-division of tissue under the microscope, could not possibly be improved upon. All is perfect, the result of *creative power*, hence the difference between God's works and the works of man. The tiny heart beats on for years, without giving evidence of being tired but the muscles of the arm, if overtaxed by continuous action for two hours in one direction, would of necessity require to rest for a day or two to recover ordinary tonicity. Here there is a distinctive difference between creative power and the works of man. The

aws of God are perfect; the operations of man are imperfect. The more we examine this subject, the clearer becomes the fact that scientific investigations, carefully made, sustain Biblical truth. In these varied lines of enquiry, our divines have much to contend against and for that reason should be fully equipped with a well stored library, an indispensable part of church furniture, thus increasing the ministers power, and providing food for thought.

This is a time when the ministry should be thoroughly equipped, and their physical and mental organizations well looked after by those with whom they are laboring, for as a rule the usefulness of the minister will be in keeping with both the mental and physical power he carries along with him. Some have an idea that it is an easy matter to be a minister. A youth impressed with that notion once called on the late Mr. Spurgeon. He had failed in several positions in life, but held the opinion that his calling was the church. After a time he was afforded the opportunity of proving himself. His text and subject suddenly flashed past like an electric light, and left him in total darkness, when he gave expression to his feelings and said: "My dear friends, if any of you think that it is an easy thing to preach, I advise you to come up here and have all the conceit taken out of you."

The men who would succeed in any calling in life are those which the ministry needs; men of all round capacity, well supplied with that rare commodity, common sense. To keep a congregation together for years, requires no little ability, backed by a store house of information, brightened and intensified by the active, living spirit of the Book of all Books, which contains the very mental life blood that stimulates the growth of intellectual and spiritual vigor. I once heard Mr. Spurgeon say to some young ministers, who had been under his instruction, and about to enter on the ministry, "Above all things be natural; be what God made you. You cannot be a Chalmers, a McLeod, or a Guthrie. Use the faculties at your disposal and make the best of them. Let your voice pass naturally over the keys of the organ that formulates the human voice. Do not play on one key, or the voice will crack, and a minister's sore throat be the result. Above all things expound the Gospel and do not pound it." From time to time, I have heard some of the great divines of the past, such as McLeod, Cummings, Spurgeon and Punshon, and certainly these men have played an important part in expounding the Gospel and spreading the light of truth far and near over the face of the world. In Canada, contemporary with these transatlantic lights, we have had such workers as Dr. Cooke, of Quebec; Drs. Mathewson and McGill, of Montreal; Dr. Urquhart, of Cornwall; Dr. Spence, of Ottawa; and Dr. Machar, of Kingston; and, thanks to a kind Providence, we still have with us Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, active and energetic, although a worker at the very commencement of the half century just being celebrated. Fortunately in their footsteps we have young and vigorous men possessed of rare power and capacity for work, such as is evidenced in men like Gordon of Halifax, Herridge and Ballantyne of Ottawa, Macdonnell of Toronto, and others too numerous to mention. In the church as well as the university Dr. Grant is a rare light, gifted with powers of a high order and ready and willing on all occasions to advance the best interests of church or State.

What could be more satisfactory than the practical result of the present Jubilee, which, thanks to the generosity and liberality of your many friends, has enable you to remove a debt on Knox Church of over \$15,000. This is certainly a relief to both rich and poor, who sit equally in the House of the Lord. Church expenses should be so arranged as to be light on the poor and needy, many of whom, were it not for free sittings, could not afford to attend church in these days of fashion. I join with you in

returning thanks for such blessings, an evidence, should such be wanting, of happiness and prosperity in our people. In no section of Canada is there a better feeling among all religious persuasions than in Ottawa City. Only a few months ago there assembled in our City Hall a most representative gathering of citizens of all creeds and nationalities, to take part in the presentation of an address to the Rev. Dr. Dawson, who has, as a Catholic priest, resided over 50 years amongst us. Shortly afterwards Dr. Dawson was invited by the St. Andrew's Society of this city to preach the anniversary sermon, which duty he discharged with marked ability, the Rev. Mr. Herridge occupying a seat on his right, and, on the same platform, many of the leading Protestants of Ottawa. It is this unity of action which strengthens the whole fabric of the State, and gives force and character to the best efforts of our people. Knox Church has certainly made great progress in the past fifty years, and is now, far and near recognized as a power for good. The growth and prosperity of Knox Church is only one of many like developments in the growth of the church as a whole in Canada, which in itself is undoubted evidence of the religious influence at work, guiding and directing in such a way as will not fail to exercise a beneficial and lasting influence. The progress of Canada, in that same half century of church history, has been most remarkable. Fifty years ago we had but 50 miles of Railway in all British North America. We had only one canal, and we had no manufactories. We required to look to other countries for almost all we consumed. Our population was little more than half a million and the Imperial Government had chief charge of our postal affairs. The various Provinces of Canada were disunited and unknown to each other, not only in church matters, but in trade and commerce as well. The great North West was truly a "Lone Land." To day we are a united and confederated people—one General Assembly of the church and one Parliament for our Dominion. A railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, canal facilities in keeping with the trade of the time, and equal to any in the world. Manufactories of almost every description, to meet the wants and requirements of our people, now numbering about five millions. This development in the life time of one of the pillars of Knox Church, Rev. Dr. Wardrope, now present on this platform, is an outcome remarkable in every way, and proof, were such required, that Canada has become a nation, fearing God and honoring our Queen. In the midst of all our prosperity what remarkable influences are at work, and well may we endorse the delightful sentiment of Bishop Cox, of London, England:

"Oh where are Kings and Empires now,
Of old that went and came,
But Lord, thy church is praying yet,
A thousand years the same."

A STUDENT'S OPPORTUNITY.

The article by Rev. Chas. W. Gordon in the November issue of *Knox College Monthly*, "The New West and the New East," if read by the divinity students in all our eastern colleges can scarcely fail of producing good results. It is apparent to all that any interest whatever in the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, not only in foreign lands but at home as well, that our Canadian churches hold in the Province of God the key of the situation; an opportunity now presents itself which if neglected will incur serious loss as well as a terrible reckoning. To whom if not to the students can the church look to fill the breach? In establishing the Summer Session the Assembly has in a large measure removed former objections and difficulties. It may necessitate as light sacrifice on the student's part, but has it not created an additional expense and sacrifice on the part of the church? How may we reasonably expect the church to continue this sacrifice if we do not adapt ourselves to the circumstances? Yet so long is the attendance of Manitoba College, and the consequent labor in the mission field during