

# The Canada Presbyterian

Published every Wednesday by

The Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co..

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager.

5 Jordan St., - - - Toronto, Ont.

Terms: Two Dollars Per Annum, Payable in Advance.

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The Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co.,  
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1896.

REMITTANCES to a considerable amount to the Armenian Relief Fund of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN will be given in next issue, meanwhile the need is pressing, and the calls for help very urgent.

WE regret to announce that the Rev. Dr. Gregg has just received by cable, notice of the death at Broughty Ferry, Scotland, of the late Rev. Robert Burns, D.D., formerly pastor of Fort Massey Church, Halifax, and well-known in every part of our Church.

AN account of the closing exercises of Montreal Presbyterian Theological College, which took place on the evening of April 1st, will appear next week, the report having reached us too late to be given at any length in this issue; and so also of the opening of the summer session at Winnipeg.

WE remind all congregations, Sabbath schools and Christian Endeavor Societies, that the financial year of the Church terminates this month. The books close promptly on Thursday, April 30th. It is hoped, however, that all money may be forwarded immediately, so as to enable all accounts to be paid before the end of the month.

THE breaking up of the congregation Talmage used to preach to in Brooklyn is a suggestive commentary on the work of men who can do nothing better than draw a crowd. It also shows how much reliance can be placed on people whose religion consists mainly in running after popular preachers. This congregation used to report three thousand members, but there was not strength enough in the three thousand to keep themselves in existence as a congregation. And yet there are people even in Canada who think that the only thing necessary in church work is to draw a crowd.

OUR good friend, the Halifax *Witness*, has this to say about Separate Schools:—

For the Government of Canada to establish Separate Schools anywhere we have regarded as a blunder and a crime. When away back some twenty years ago such a system was provided for the territories we did all we could to prevent the wrong. There was not then a voice in Ontario or Quebec raised to second our efforts. Happily a change has come over the organs of public opinion. The *Christian Guardian*, THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and the *Montreal Witness* have now clearer convictions, and they manifest the courage of their convictions. This change was well worth waiting for. It is full of promise for the future of the Dominion.

We were not aware that the *Witness* had wrought any change in our views on the Separate School question, but let that pass. Would our friend now go to work on the Nova Scotia members and induce them not to vote in favor of fastening a Separate School system upon Manitoba by force.

A VERY interesting and most hopeful feature, which all who have occasion to read the minutes of Presbytery meetings cannot fail to note, is the practice, rapidly growing in the meetings of these courts, of spending some part of almost everyone in dealing with subjects of the utmost importance to the spiritual life of the members and of the church apart from the necessary routine business. The routine work is the Master's business and indispensable to the extension of His kingdom, but it will not be the less faithfully attended to by members of Presbytery at each meeting, coming into close and direct contact with Him by seasons of devotion and conference on the highest and most spiritual themes.

THE present session of the Point Aux Trembles Mission Schools has been one of great encouragement. The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered there on Sabbath, the 29th March, when eleven of the pupils were publicly received into connection with the Church. In December last, nine others were admitted, making in all, twenty during the current session. The large attendance entails a very heavy expenditure in the maintenance of the Institution. The Fund is, at the present time, considerably behind, and it is earnestly hoped that all Sabbath schools supporting pupils, and the friends of the work generally, will forward contributions, without delay, to the Rev. Dr. Warden, Treasurer, so that the year may close at the end of this month free from debt.

THE General Assembly's Augmentation Committee, as we go to press, are in session in this city. From the Treasurer's statement the Fund is \$3,000 less than the amount required to pay the grants in full to the ministers of augmented charges. We are not aware, at the time of writing, what action may be taken, but the policy of the Committee, when the scheme was re-organized two years ago, was to expend simply the money the Church supplied, and end every year free from debt. Should this be carried out, it will mean a considerable reduction in the grants to ministers. It is earnestly hoped, however, that before the end of the month, every congregation throughout the Church will have contributed towards the Fund. If this is the case, the \$3000 yet required will doubtless be made good.

AN organization most vitally affecting the well-being of the whole country is that of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance, formed one year ago. Its first annual meeting will be held on Friday evening of this week in the Y.W.C. Guild Hall, McGill Street, at 8 p.m. Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. Dr. Potts, N. W. Hoyles, Esq., Q.C., and representatives from Hamilton, London and Kingston, will deliver addresses. A business meeting of members of the Alliance, at which most important matters will be considered, will be held in the hall of the Confederation Life Building at 3 p.m. on Friday. The possible near approach of another contest in this city, over the running or not running of the street cars on Sunday, lends a special interest and importance to these meetings for which we bespeak a very large attendance.

KNOK COLLEGE has done a fair share of work in the way of furnishing the Church with professors. Professor McLaren is a graduate of the institution in which he has labored so long with credit to himself and advantage to the Church. Professor Thomson, recently called to higher service, was a Knox man. Until recently the whole staff of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, were graduates of Knox and there was no better staff anywhere. Two of the Professors in Manitoba College are from Knox. Dr. Beattie, at present teaching in one of the Southern seminaries, is a Knox graduate. Dr. Munro Gibson, one of the most distinguished graduates, might have had a chair but he would not accept. The right reply to the question, Why does not Knox College turn out a few professors? is, She has turned out a considerable number of good ones. If at the present juncture the Board and a large number of Presbyteries thought it better to go outside the Church and nominate two men who are specialists in their departments, about the most one can fairly say is, It happened so. The next two—yes, the next half dozen—may be found within the Church. At all events we all hope so.

THE number of care worn clerical faces at the closing exercises in Knox College last week was altogether too large. In common with the rest of the community many ministers have been suffering from the prevailing business depression. The cold weather and la grippe did not help matters. Surely these dull times must be nearly gone. Depression soon causes depression in the Church. Men who are worried by want or care to the verge of insanity cannot take hold of Church work with any degree of courage.

A SUBJECT too large and too important to enter upon at present, is the failure of the Conference between the representatives of the Dominion and Manitoba Governments to arrive at any settlement of the School Question satisfactory to all parties concerned. This, while it will be sincerely regretted by all, is what we judge might also have been expected to be the result of the Conference. The parties from the first, as the Hon. Mr. Sifton's statement clearly shows, occupied positions too fundamentally distinct, and the objects sought were too widely divergent to allow of them finding a common ground of agreement.

IT is high time that the standard ticket farce were abolished so far as the opening and closing exercises at Knox College are concerned. You get a printed programme of the exercises and some obliging official asks you to be sure and purchase a standard ticket. You do so and sign a legal looking document at the railway office. You hand your document to Brother Burns and he worries around for a couple of days to get the necessary fifty but they are not there. You get your document back and worry the officials at the railway office in Toronto and sign another document. Then the ticket clerk tells you that there is no reduction and you pay the additional amount for which you could have got a return ticket at home in the regular way of business. And then people say the Church is under obligation to the railways! Let the farce stop.

OUR good friend the *Interior* is much exercised and very properly exercised over the conduct of the Assembly *Herald*, the official organ of the Presbyterian Church over there. The *Herald*, as everyone knows and regrets, was rabidly anti-British during the recent war scare. When the *Herald* was helping on the panic, its editor was, according to his own showing, making a good thing out of the fluctuations of the stock market. The editor denies that he wrote the tail-twisting articles, but, all the same, they appeared in the official journal of the Church. Now the *Interior* need not worry over the conduct of the official organ. A better course would be to get one of our Canadian ice rams from the Georgain Bay and run it into the vicinity of the *Herald* office. The moment the editor saw that "ice ram" bearing down upon him with the Union Jack flying from its funnel—has an "ice ram" a funnel?—he would surrender and allow no more tail twisting copy to appear in his columns. He might even stop dabbling in stocks.

WHEN Sir Charles Tupper re-entered parliamentary life a few weeks ago his friends hoped, and his opponents feared, there was a brilliant and influential future before him. If the prospects are not as bright now as at that time the veteran Nova Scotian may in part blame his habit of dealing too much in ancient history. Nothing was more natural than that he, coming back to the scene of his former struggles and triumphs, should recall the good old times when he was a powerful factor in the political life of this country. Shrewd as Sir Charles is, he did not fully realize that the great living public are not specially interested in the ancient history of a personal kind. The public may be thoughtless, even ungrateful, but men must be dealt with as we find them. Sir Charles, however, erred in good company. It seems utterly impossible for a man at seventy to avoid the ancient when he makes a speech. Even Sir John Macdonald, with all the marvellous freshness of his mind, could not always do it. Sir Oliver Mowat takes an occasional glimpse at the days of his boyhood, but exercises his usual prudence, and does not dwell too much on the past. The public will stand a little ancient history if it is well told, but the demand for that kind of oratory is neither active nor constant. Many an old minister of the gospel spoils otherwise capital speeches by dwelling too long and too minutely on the early history of some church or congregation.