

British American Presbyterian,
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FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE EIGHTH PAGE.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
Editor and Proprietor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, or initials they will not be inserted. Articles not accepted will be returned, if at the time they are sent, a post is made to that effect. Manuscripts not accompanied by return postage and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

British American Presbyterian,
FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1876.

The matter of representation will certainly be considered and probably be disposed of by the forthcoming Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Presbyteries generally have sent forward their answer as to this question. Meanwhile, it is interesting to find that the committee appointed to report on representation to the Northern General Assembly suggests a plan by which the members entitled to sit in that body will be reduced from 600 to 300. Possibly this latter number may still further be reduced.

Among the recent importations of ministers from the old country to the United States, no one stands higher than Dr. Wm. M. Taylor, D.D., of New York. Dr. Taylor is a staunch and sturdy Presbyterian, who finds he can conscientiously minister in a Congregational Church. Since his arrival in America, the Rev. gentleman has published a number of excellent books. His last containing lectures on preaching, delivered at Yale this year, on the Lyman-Beecher foundation, is considered his best. Dr. Taylor, like Chalmers, reads his sermons, and in his work, sturdily maintains that the "paper" is the thing. Talmage, of Brooklyn fame, is disposed to flail Dr. Taylor on this point, and to set up for extempore preaching. Both may be right. Taylor and Talmage are excellent preachers; the one reads, the other does not.

The Reformed Dutch Church has thrown cold water on the proposals emanating from the Presbyterian Church (North), to consider the question of union with that body. The Dutch Church is like one of the Elfrithian Coaches—grand and stately, but slow and ponderous. Men like Duryee, Cuyler, and Stryker, could not find elbow room within her pale, and sought the Presbyterian fold for liberty. The wonder to everybody is, how an energetic, go-ahead, liberal man like Dr. Ormiston, formerly of the Canadian Church, can live a day amongst the old Dutchers without blowing them into fragments. But he, doubtless, believes in remaining in the body in order to its reformation. It is a fine old orthodox Church at the same time, and probably the refusal to unite with the Presbyterian Church has more to do with the question of nationality than anything else.

We are requested to state on behalf of the committee appointed to make arrangements for the accommodation of members of Assembly, that partly in consequence of the very large number who have signified their intention to be present, and partly also in consequence of the delay of many in doing so, that it may be out of their power to have their arrangements completed in time to permit them to acquaint ALL with their places of residence, before they leave for Toronto. Intimation on this point has been already sent to considerably more than half of those who have signified their intention to be present. Others may expect to hear from the committee before the close of the week. Any who have had no communication, are requested to come at once to the committee, which will be sitting in Knox Church, and which hopes to be then enabled to intimate the provision made for their accommodation.

At the meeting of the Toronto Presbytery on Tuesday, another statement was read from the Rev. D. J. MacDonnell, B.D., in terms following:—"Notwithstanding the difficulties which I have regarding the eternity of future punishment, I continue my adhesion to that doctrine as implied in my assent to the Confession of Faith as formerly given." After a good deal of discussion, the Presbytery adopted, by a vote of fifteen to two, Rev. Principal Owen's motion:—"That the statement submitted by Mr. MacDonnell be transmitted to the General Assembly, with the expression of a hope that the Assembly may find it a satisfactory basis for settlement of the case, and that the whole matter be now referred to the General Assembly, with the request that that venerable body would finally issue it." There is little doubt that the General Assembly will look at the subject in the same way as the Presbytery; and it is, therefore, not too much to assume that this vexed case is now near a termination.

THE COMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Our whole Church is now looking forward with anxiety, interest and expectancy to the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly, to convene in this city on the 8th of June next. In every view of it this meeting must be regarded as one of exceeding importance to the interests of our Church in the Dominion, and of truth and evangelical Christianity. We would invite on its behalf the prayers of all the Churches, that its deliberations and decisions may be controlled and directed by the Divine Spirit, so that all may redound to the glory of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. Let the period of its sitting be a time of special prayer on the part of all who love Zion, and who are interested in the spread of truth as we hold it, and as it has been handed down to us from our forefathers. So far as any actual work is concerned, this may be considered the first Assembly of the United Church. The subjects to come before it are both numerous and of surpassing importance. The members of which it is composed come together from the most distant parts of the land, can hardly be said ever to have come together for the transaction of business before, and interests and opinions will in all subjects be more or less various and conflicting. Mutual forbearance, singleness of motive and aim could not be more required in any Assembly than they will be in that now so near.

Very seldom if ever before have any of our Assemblies been occupied with the discussion of any great purely doctrinal question; we still hope that this one may not be, but if it should, we cannot doubt that the consideration of a subject so solemn and even awful as that of the duration of future punishment, will be conducted in the most becoming spirit, both as regards truth and him who has given occasion for such a discussion.

Questions connected with the more perfect consolidation of the united Church, and the effective working of all her schemes, must occupy by far the larger portion of the Assembly's time and energies; and these are of such vital importance to her well-being that it must be a matter of deep regret should its attention be diverted from the undivided consideration of these great interests. Among these the extension and vigorous support of the work at home must ever occupy the foremost place. In view of the large deficit of the present year in this department, the consideration must force itself upon the Assembly of some method by which the resources of our church may be more fully called forth for the support of this work. Possibly it may be determined that the time and crisis has now come for trying the method which has already so often and long been spoken of, namely the appointment of a Home or Mission Secretary to give his time wholly to the working up of this department. Other important schemes of our Church inseparably connected with our Home Mission work, namely the Colleges for the training of the ministry, the support of Aged and Infirm Ministers, the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, must all in our new relations require a large measure of attention. French Evangelization is an integral part of our Home Mission work, and of this we shall expect to hear a more than usually interesting and cheering account. If the Church can be made fully alive to, and will only vigorously support the work at home, we need not fear for our work abroad. The successful prosecution of the one is the condition of the success of the other. We trust that at this Assembly both may secure a fresh impulse, and from this time make such marked progress as to constitute this meeting an epoch in our Church's history.

The report of the large Committee which met since the last Assembly at Montreal will necessarily require lengthened consideration from the number and importance of the topics embraced in it. Besides many other subjects the following must occupy more or less of the Assembly's attention: hymnology, some general system of defraying the expenses of members of the Assembly by which, when it shall become more strictly representative in its character, the whole Church may equally bear this burden; new forms of procedure for the whole body, so that the practice may in this matter be somewhat nearly uniform. The great difficulty of this Assembly will be the number and importance of subjects which will have to be taken up, and consequently the number of those who will insist upon boring the members and wasting precious time with long speeches upon subjects upon which they know little or nothing about. Much will depend upon securing a Moderator possessed of knowledge, tact, firmness and courtesy to preside over the deliberations, keep the Assembly out of difficulty as far as possible, mercifully insist upon long-winded men sticking to the point, and push on business.

The spirit, and temper, and zeal, of this Assembly will have a vast influence over the whole Church, and we sincerely trust that every member will feel the individual responsibility resting upon him to make this such as shall be felt in the highest degree for good upon his fellow members, and throughout the Church from one end of the Dominion to the other.

STATSMANSHIP IN THE CHURCH.

It is very commonly said by the laity, that clergymen are very poor hands at business. It is thought they are good for preaching on themes too ethereal for this world, and for taking part in tea-meetings and socials. There is hardly a merchant but would pooh-pooh the idea of a minister being considered a practical, common-sense man of business.

There is no doubt much to be said in this direction, if we look merely to the great mass of clergymen as they are engaged in their pulpit and parochial duties. The truth is, they do not need to be business men in the ordinary sense. They constitute the only profession, or they are the only class, who have it not in their power to make a special charge for everything they do. They cannot, like lawyers and physicians, exact a fee for every sermon they preach, every visit they make, every letter they write, or for every advice they give. Their business is therefore reduced to the simplest form—that of receiving a certain salary, and expending it according to their requirements. No wonder they are as a rule not great commercially, when their money transactions are so few and commonplace.

When, however, we turn to the public services rendered by clergymen, we have reason, not only to be proud of them, but to class them amongst the most renowned statesmen, whether of the past or present. John Knox was, for example, more than a preacher or pastor. He was a ruler on a grand scale. The Church of Scotland, as it was moulded by his hand, is a vast monument to his business tact and ability. Dr. Chalmers, could he have politics as his profession, could not have fallen short of being a Premier or Chancellor of the Exchequer. Look at his own parochial work, in which he carried on the business of a whole lot of ordinary poor houses. Consider his Extension scheme, by which he actually built in a few years two hundred new church edifices. When the disruption took place, think of the sustentation scheme as it was carefully planned and matured in his mind, and by which provision was secured for nearly five hundred ministers, who for conscience sake, had left their manse and stipends behind them. Then comes Candlish, with his vast administrative ability, and Dr. Robert Buchanan, so felicitously named the Country Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Free Church, who by wise supervision and careful management, made the sustentation fund the wonder of the age. There is Dr. Robertson too, of the Established Church, the author and convener of the endowment scheme, who was enabled in his life time, to create almost a hundred new parishes, at a cost of a million and a half dollars. Then there is Dr. Guthrie with his ragged schools, the child of his own inventive thought, and the object of a careful management, such as the most successful business men cannot rival. Dr. Norman Macleod, though by no means pugnacious in his own private affairs, carried on his shoulders, for nearly a decade, the magnificent Indian scheme of the Church of Scotland.

These men are to be ranked with the most eminent statesmen we could mention. They are to be named alongside of such men as Pitt and Palmerston, Gladstone and Disraeli. Besides being eminent preachers and good parochial workers, they carried on their shoulders a weight, with which only can be compared the responsibility of some distinguished Premier or Chancellor of the Exchequer, or some extraordinary banker, like Rothschild, or world-famed merchant such as A. T. Stewart.

But without being men like these illustrious divines whom we have named, there are many ministers in all our Churches, who are rendering most important services in regard to finance. In all the denominations, vast sums pour into their treasuries, from their congregations. These are generally controlled by ministers, and frequently by ministers in the active duties of their profession. Think of the vast sums annually expended in the work of domestic and foreign missions, by all the evangelical denominations. Consider what is done for the erection of schools and churches, for the dissemination of the Scriptures, for the circulation of a wholesome literature, for the poor and suffering. And when it is remembered that all this work is for the most part accomplished by clergymen in charge, there is surely but little reason to conclude, that they are destitute of business tact or statesman-like genius.

When we add that all these undertakings are carried on to a very large extent, without any salary being paid for such services—without even the consideration of fee or reward—and with the certainty of being often exposed to severe criticism, we are satisfied we have said something to lead the members of our churches, to appreciate the noble and disinterested labours of their pastors. The various conferences of other denominations than that which we represent, now being held in this city, give many evidences of the

truth of what we have advanced; and we look forward to our own Assembly, and to the reports of what has been done during the past year, as furnishing corroborative proof that our ministers are by no means to be depreciated on the ground that they are not practical men of business.

The attention of Theological Students is directed to the advertisement of Scholarships in another column.

We are requested to announce that the Home Mission Committee (western district), will meet in Deacon's room of Knox Church, Toronto, on Wednesday, 7th June, at 8 p.m.

ATTENTION is directed to the interesting letter for the Rev. John Lang M.A. of Dundas, one of the General Assembly's delegates to the American Presbyterian Churches, Mr. Lang was accompanied by Mr. James Croil, editor of the Record.

SURELY some of the American Colleges will confer a D.D. upon that Rev. delegate to the General Assembly at Brooklyn who moved that the Roman Catholic Church should be declared apostate. The Assembly wisely laid the resolution on the table, and passed to other business.

THE prospects are growing brighter for incorporating union between the Northern and Southern Churches. Nothing could have been finer than the spirit shown by the Brooklyn Assembly in telegraphing to the Southern Assembly, a message of cordial greeting. The feeling towards the Northern Church entertained by the Southern, is evidently veering round in the direction of brotherly love and confidence.

It is with feelings of deep regret we announce the death of Mr. Adam Gordon, M.P. for North Ontario, in his forty-fifth year. His death took place last Saturday night, after a brief illness. His death is universally regretted by a large circle of relatives and friends, and his widow and children will have the heart-felt sympathy of all who knew him, in their sudden and sore bereavement. Mr. Gordon took an active part in public affairs. He was a warm and consistent advocate of temperance, and during the past session of the Dominion Parliament he introduced a bill having for its object—

THE Evangelist Mr. Moody, after having spent some time in the South, attended meetings in St. Louis. The people of Chicago are making great preparations to receive this hero of a thousand battles who carries with him so many laurels of victory. Mr. Moody goes to the garden city ostensibly for the opening of his new church. This building is constructed for the accommodation of nearly three thousand persons, and presents the largest auditorium in Chicago. It is admirably adapted for the work of evangelization and of Sabbath Schools. A great ovation will assuredly be given the Evangelist which, while not turning his head, will warm his heart. The Christians of Chicago think they are well entitled to be the next to enjoy the benefit of the labours of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, and they confidently expect that a similar work to that in New York will commence in their midst towards the Fall of this year.

A CABLE despatch received by Mr. George H. Stuart, Philadelphia, from Mr. Thomas Nelson, Edinburgh, announces that an organic union was, on the 25th ult., consummated between the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland and the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland. This is an ecclesiastical event of no ordinary importance, and is to be regarded with satisfaction and gratitude by all who have the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom at heart. Remembering that the distinguished hitherto not only by her testimony to the Truth, but by her conscientious scrupulousness in regard to such matters as the use of the Psalms of David, her union with the Free Church is to be taken as proof of the liberal tendencies of our age. Let the Reformed Church in America take lesson from this example, and rescind that sentence by which they expelled such a good man as Mr. Geo. Stuart, the recipient of the despatch, on account of his having taken part with other Christians in Services at which such hymns as "Rock of Ages" were sung. The action we refer to remains an ugly blot upon that Church, reflecting seriously upon the Christian spirit which animates her. Let her be generous, as Mr. Stuart is generous, in thus gladly publishing to the world the refreshing tidings which come from Scotland.

Ministers and Churches.

THE Bazaar in aid of the funds of Bank Street church, Ottawa, realized the handsome sum of \$800.

THE Rev. D. McDonald was re-called by the congregations of Cambray and Fenelon on the 16th ult. The call is unanimous.

THE Rev. Mr. Bakie, of Brampton, has accepted the call from the congregation at Harrison, and the Presbytery has agreed to his translation.

A CASE of some interest connected with Calvin Church, St. John, N. B., has been referred by the Presbytery of St. John to the Assembly about to be convened in this city.

At a large congregational meeting in Knox Church, on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. L. Blakie in the chair, it was unanimously decided to call a colleague and successor to Dr. Topp. Salary \$2,500.

THE Presbyterian Church at Ancaster Village has been burglarized, and every thing portable carried off, including stair carpet, cocoa-matting, mirror, brush and comb, and a small sum of money.

THE corner stone of Knox Church, Burlington, was laid on Monday by Rev. Principal Owen, of Knox College, Toronto. Presbyterian clergy from Hamilton and other places adjacent were present.

THE congregation of Duff's Church, East Puslinch, presented their pastor, the Rev. Dr. McKay, on the 22nd May, being the Monday of their Communion services, with a handsome sum of money as a token of regard and esteem.

MINISTERS and Elders attending the meeting of General Assembly in this city are invited to call at the office of this paper, 102 Bay street. The office is central, and a room, containing facilities for writing, will be at the command of our friends.

At the meeting of the Toronto Presbytery, on Tuesday, Mr. A. McMurray, M.A. Elder, applied on behalf of old St. Andrew's, for the moderation of a call. Leave granted. The Rev. Dr. James, of Albany, N.Y., will preach in old St. Andrew's next Sabbath, morning and evening.

THE congregation in Stayner has just presented their minister, the Rev. R. Moodie, with a handsome new buggy, and, besides, intimated a desire that he should take some holidays. Mr. Moodie very liberally expressed his thoughts and liberality shown ever since his settlement as minister of the Congregation.

THE site of old Knox College has been purchased by the Central Church congregation. The erection of a suitable church is to be proceeded with at once. We have no doubt the new building will be a credit to this young and vigorous congregation, as well as an ornament to that part of the city. The choice of site has been ratified by the Presbytery.

THE *Oakville Express* of last week remarks:—"It gives us great pleasure to announce the re-opening of the Presbyterian Church (Rev. Wm. Meikle) in this town on Sabbath last. The Rev. Professor McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, conducted the services, morning and evening to large congregations. The church has been frescoed in panels, the pews regained and varnished, the pulpit entirely and neatly refurnished in a rich and tasteful manner. The whole church has been freshly carpeted and handsome chandeliers and pulpit lamps have replaced the old ones; altogether making this a most comfortable and pleasant place of worship for the large and intelligent congregations that meet there every Sabbath. The church was increased to nearly double its former size some six years ago, and yet there is not a pew to be let at the present moment. Rev. Wm. Meikle is a most devoted and faithful pastor and deserves all the encouragement he receives from his attentive and appreciative congregation."

THE Convener of the Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Schools is desirous of gaining information from all parts of the Church before preparing his report, and would be greatly aided and obliged, if the Clerks of Presbyteries and Synods, or the Secretaries of Sabbath School Conventions, would forward to him notices of meetings held during the year. And he respectfully asks from them a synopsis of the main discussions and points, or any resolutions passed or recommendations made. He would especially solicit Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, or any other friends of the cause, to favor him with any valuable information or important suggestion.

J. THOMPSON, Convener,

Sarnia.

THE New York *World* states, in reference to the excitement concerning Winslow, that some years ago, a regimental mess-sergeant fled from Halifax with the mess-plate, and the United States Government refused to give him up, because he might be tried for desertion.