

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21, 22, 23, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed: PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

EDITORIAL STAFF.

EDITOR.—Alexander Fraser, M.A.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS.—Rev. Prof. Andrew B. Baird, B.D., Winnipeg; Rev. G. Colborne Heino, B.A., Montreal; Rev. Alexander MacGillivray, Toronto; Rev. Donald MacKenzie, B.A., Orangeville.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENTS.—Rev. James Robertson, D.D., Winnipeg; Rev. D. D. MacLeod, Barrie; Miss Machar, Kingston; Mrs. Anna Ross, Brucefield, Ont.; Mr. George H. Archibald, Montreal.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, November 29, 1894.

The North West Synod.

THE Synod of Manitoba and the North West Territories held its twelfth meeting in Winnipeg last week and seems to have had no reason to echo the complaints now and then nearer home that Synods are a fifth wheel to the coach. In three days during which the sittings continued were packed with information and legislation. In Home Missions there was very apparent a feeling of anxiety lest the advances in work should go beyond the anticipated decrease in revenue for the year. Grateful mention was made of help from Scotland and Eastern Canada. A whole evening was devoted to Home Missions and the speeches were of a high order. In Indian Missions appreciative reference was made to the visit of Mrs. Harvie and Mrs. Jeffrey of the Toronto W.F.M.S., an account was given of three new church buildings which with the close of the building season an almost completed and speeches were made by Messrs. Hugh McKay of Round Lake, C. W. Whyte of Crow Stand, and John McArthur of Bird Tail. Manitoba College reported an attendance approaching 150 and expressed gratitude for help in the past summer session. The staff for next summer's theological session includes the following outsiders: Dr. Scrimger and Prof. Ross of Montreal and Prof. Orr of the United Presbyterian Hall, Edinburgh. In contrast with the general note of advancement the Convener of the Committee charged with the raising of the annual \$3000 needed for the Theological department of Manitoba College confessed that the fund was several hundred dollars in debt and asked that his resignation be accepted. A new Committee was chosen and an attempt will be made to regain lost ground.

The non-sectarian public school system is being carefully watched over to prevent tampering with the legislation which allows the reading of passages of Scripture and the use of specified forms of prayer. An attempt to secularize the system was checked by anticipation. The attendance at the Synod was a good deal larger than ever before; thanks partly to the choice of Winnipeg as the meeting place—a place the

most conveniently located and the most suitable too for reasons of personal or business convenience—and partly because the Synod has adopted the method of equalizing the travelling expenses of its ministerial members. The average this year amounted to \$5.00. Those whose expenses amounted to little or nothing contributed to the central fund the difference between their expenses and five dollars and whoever had paid more for his railway fair had the excess returned to him from this fund. This was the first year the fund had been in operation and it proved very successful. The meeting was characterized by an excellent spirit from Mr. Wright's very suitable opening sermon on Tuesday evening till the benediction was pronounced on Friday evening.

Is it Possible.

Is it possible that any man who desires the advancement of morality, virtue and religion, can be found to advocate the Sunday newspaper? Is it possible that a minister of Jesus Christ who is set apart to do all he can to help forward His Kingdom in the world, can be found, to uphold the Sunday paper? It seems incredible, and yet such is the fact. In the Episcopal Church Congress, recently held at Boston, the majority of ministers present, during the discussion of this subject, it is said, argued in favor of it, taking the ground, that the Sabbath is a feast day, not a fast day, that the Sabbath which is the most sunny alive, and full of light is the holiest, and that the Sunday newspaper, "without detaining the few who seek the highest heaven, saves millions of poor souls from listless stupor, or ignorant pastimes by drawing their interest in the world's daily life to an ampler reading than work days permit. It is their one book, their museum, their art gallery." And this notwithstanding the fact that the Sunday newspaper contains hardly any religious reading! A pious layman stated in the Congress, that he had examined some twenty-one of these newspapers, gathered from ten chief cities of the United States, and that only two out of the whole number had anything approaching serious reading. Moreover, he had found by actual count, that one of these papers contained half as many more words of reading matter than the whole New Testament. No wonder he added; "the present Sunday paper is lowering, not elevating. Every foreigner coming to this country observes the fact, and every true man, be he American or foreign born, laments it."

And yet there are even clergymen defending it! A majority in a Church Congress! Such a thing has never occurred before so far as we know. Here and there, it may be, that a minister, having a mistaken idea of the matter, or being of a rationalistic turn of mind, may have advocated the Sunday newspaper. But almost every Church Assembly and Conference, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, has mourned over the existence of this, as an evil of growing magnitude, and one which meditates against the observance of the Sabbath, and against religion. And such is the case. But the evil must be resisted. Already as stated some time since in the "REVIEW," a couple of Sunday papers have appeared in Montreal, both printed in English, which are hawked about by boys, even at the very church doors, much to the annoyance of the worshippers. We trust that this device of Satan may not