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The Canada Presbyterian

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13TH, 1895.

WE regret having failed last week to mention the receipt by Rev. William Burns, Toronto, of \$400 from "Aleph," to be allocated as follows: Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$100; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$100; Augmentation Fund, \$100; Home Mission Fund, \$100. We are glad to see all these funds receiving such needed and thoughtful assistance.

IT is to be regretted that the Ontario Sabbath School Association at its late convention felt compelled to dispense with the services of Rev. John McEwen as the agent for Normal School work. The reasons for this action were entirely owing to financial difficulties caused in part by the unusual stringency of the times, and in part by the constituency as a whole not having had time as yet fully to understand the value and importance of this kind of work. It was largely experimental, and is suspended provisionally for one year. Five hundred normal services, occupying from one to ten days, have been held by Mr. McEwen, all of them most encouraging in attendance and interest. As such work is greatly needed, we trust the Association, at the end of the year, may be able to resume it under Mr. McEwen's direction. Meantime he proposes to go on with work as heretofore, and will be available to all in the Province who desire to hold Sabbath School institutes, and may be addressed at 526 Church Street, Toronto, Ont.

IN view of Thanksgiving Day and the collection then taken up in many congregations for various objects, Rev. Dr. Warden has sent out an appeal which we commend to our congregations on behalf of two objects, both of which are deserving, namely, the Pointe-aux-Trembles' Schools, and Coligny College, Ottawa. Both are doing good work and the prospects for both for the year are encouraging. Of the former he says: "The expenditure this year, consequent on the long illness of the Principal and on certain necessary repairs, will be considerably in excess of that of last year. The estimated amount required is \$11,250." Of the latter he states that "the attendance thus far this session is ninety. The annual expenditure, apart from the debt and the interest thereon, is met by the fees of the pupils. But on the purchase price of the buildings there is an indebtedness at present of \$25,000, the annual interest of which has to be met, and there is no fund from which to obtain this. The experience of the past six years abundantly shows that the College cannot be maintained unless this indebtedness is removed.

IN two last issues of THE PRESBYTERIAN we published a chapter from "The Days of Auld Lang Syne," by Ian McLaren, entitled "A Master of Deceit." The new book, which made its appearance last week, is copyrighted in Canada by the Fleming H. Revell Co., and promises to be wonderfully popular.

THAT Manitoba document published in the *Globe* last week should be submitted to a special committee of Higher Critics in order, if possible, to find out the date of its origin. To simple minded people, who are not well up in such matters, it would seem that the original autograph was dated 1873 and that some later writer, or the original writer at a later date, wrote a cipher over the "3." The document should be sent to New York or Cincinnati at once.

CHIEF Justice Meredith deserves, and will receive the thanks of all decent citizens for the stand he has taken in regard to the treatment of witnesses. That any respectable man should be summoned to give evidence, punished if he does not attend court, and when he does go into the box be bullied, insulted, and by cowardly inuendo accused of perjury, is an outrage on decency, a blot on our boasted civilization. The scandal is not lessened by the fact that the judge sometimes moralizes on the violence of the press, while lawyers under his very nose use language that no decent newspaper would print. The new Chief should sit heavily on those members of the Bar who also try to atone for their lack of ability to cross-examine by insolent swagger that would not for a moment be tolerated out of court. Cross-examination is indispensable in the administration of justice; but a counsel who cannot do his duty without acting as a vulgar bully should have his place assigned to him on a back seat. Not long ago we heard a prominent minister say, after giving his evidence in court, that he had never met more polite men in his life than the judge and counsel on both sides. Why should not every witness have a similar experience?

THE senior editor of the *Chicago Interior* took a trip to New York a short time ago and he gives his readers the following under the appropriate heading "Musings in a Sleeper."

The Michigan Central, Grand Trunk, and New York Central, are the three links in one of the lines between the future and the past. Both in Michigan and in New York the tests of thrift are manifest. Handsome, roomy, well-kept and freshly painted houses and barns are strung along the line like strands of jewels hung upon the pearly neck of beautiful Columbia, while between the Detroit and Niagara rivers the farm improvements are, like neglected dwarfs, little, old and seedy—too ugly to be employed as curiosities and not big enough to be of any use. The Queen's American possessions are not well managed.

The good man evidently went through on the night express and as he looked, half asleep, through his car window he thought the water tanks and other small structures along the line were farm buildings. The traveller who can deliberately write that the counties of Kent, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Wentworth and Lincoln are inferior to the swamps of Michigan, must either have made the run across these counties half asleep or he must be suffering from an attack of Anglophobia equal in violence to the attacks of malaria that the residents of Michigan towns used to suffer from when they rang the bell at certain hours for the people to take quinine.

STARVING ARMENIANS.

MUCH of very great general interest might be said just now about this interesting people and their country; but for the present, we have one single direct object in view; namely, by giving what at best can be only a glimpse of what they are just now suffering, and their great need of help, something may be done for humanity's sake, to say nothing of the name of Christianity, to help the thousands of them who are dying, and the thousands more who must die of absolute starvation unless relief is promptly sent to them. The more that comes to light respecting their treatment for years under the Turkish government, but especially of their persecutions during some months past, the more unprovoked, wantonly, and even, we might say, fiendishly brutal, cruel and revolting do they appear, and the state of the people so much the more pitiable.

Some late numbers of the *Christian Herald*, the most widely circulated religious journal on the continent, contain most graphic and pitiful details from persons on the spot, and eye-witnesses of the abominable and savage cruelties which have been practised upon them in the late massacres, and their present helpless and starving condition. Some of the cruelties which have been perpetrated are such as cannot be described, are not fit to be related. The people upon whom these things have been chiefly done, and the greatest sufferers, are a simple, peaceable, pastoral and agricultural people, living round the region of Lake Van, numbering from one million to one and a half millions. They are unarmed and defenceless. "Valis," or municipal governors, are appointed by the government at Constantinople to administer the laws, and none but Moslems hold official positions. In the mountains round live the Kurds, a semi-barbarous people, well-armed and filled with implacable hatred against the Armenian Christians of the villages and small towns.

Miss Grace Kimball, M.D., an American missionary, who has been living among these Armenians, and Rev. John Wright, another missionary, have been making known to the American people, who have engaged very extensively in missionary work in the Turkish Empire, the wrongs suffered, and the present pitiable state of these poor people. Their accounts are confirmed by private letters, by the official statements of consuls, and by travellers, one of whom, Mr. W. W. Howard, an American, just returned, gives the most heart-rending accounts of starvation, disease and death. Miss Kimball says of the Armenians:—

"Their homes have been wrecked, their farms destroyed, and their implements and cattle seized by the bandit Kurds, and they were compelled to seek such shelter as the woods and caves afford." In two districts she mentions, "five thousand were living in the mountains in this pitiful way and faring little better than wild beasts, almost naked and living on roots and berries." After doing all in her power to assist them until her means were wholly exhausted, in an agony of soul at the sight of such distress she writes, "Unless relief comes, I pray God that I may not see the winter."

Rev. Mr. Wright, after giving facts of Kurdish barbarity too horrible almost to mention, says: "Many women died from fright, and the children also died from fright or exposure to the cold. We found that nearly half the members of families we met had perished during their flight. About ten thousand refugees are estimated to have passed through his district." Mr. W. W. Howard, just referred to, speaking of their sufferings, says:

"The English language is impotent for the task of describing them, and a just regard for the conventionalities of civilized speech will not permit that the whole truth be told. There are in Armenia at the present moment at least two hundred thousand persons fighting death by famine! In the one province of Van, which is the centre of Armenia, there are fully one hundred thousand persons, out of a total Armenian population of one hundred and fifty-five thousand, in actual want of food. Many have already died of starvation, and thousands of villagers are barely keeping soul and body together by eating roots, and herbs, and a sort of bread made of clover seed, flax or linseed meal mixed with edible grass. Unless these wretched people receive immediate help, they will perish of starvation; they must have food or clothing or they cannot possibly survive the winter. In October, when winter begins, the supply of edible grass, and roots and herbs will be cut off, and what will become of the people? They have no money with which to buy food. The Kurds and the Turks (who in some respects are more to blame than the Kurds) have taken everything, and the Armenians have nothing. It is not difficult to foresee the condition of Armenia four months hence, should we now turn a deaf ear to the cries of the starving which have haunted me night and day for weeks. If two hundred thousand people begin a long winter with absolutely nothing to eat, and no chance of obtaining food, what will become of them?"

This is as we said but a glimpse of the state of things. What is their crime? Simply that they are Christians. "Were they to become Mohammedans, their trouble would vanish and return no more. It is for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that they are persecuted unto death."

What can be done? The *Christian Herald* has undertaken, with the co-operation of all who wish to help, to send such aid as can be procured to these oppressed, persecuted and starving people. The plan is, as far as possible, to provide them with work that they may help themselves. Mr. Howard is already on his way to Armenia as the *Herald's* commissioner to assist in this most needed work, and all contributions, small or great, addressed to the *Christian Herald*, Bible House, New York, or to the Editor of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto, will be promptly acknowledged and used on behalf of our starving Armenian Christian brethren.