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The Canada Presbyterian

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH, 1895.

THE Rev. Dr. Cochrane has received a further contribution from Broughton Place congregation, Edinburgh, for North West Missions, to the amount of £50 sterling.

PERHAPS it was Hamilton Dr. Campbell was thinking about, though he happened to say Toronto, when making his speech on the professorship matter in the Presbytery of Ottawa. Hamilton always was an ambitious city, and it has sent three professors to Knox College!

COMMENTING on the trial of Clara Ford the *Christian Guardian* says:

> The result of some recent Canadian criminal trials has tended to shake confidence in the jury system as a means of securing justice.

The methods of certain Toronto detectives were much more severely shaken by the Ford trial than the jury system was.

THE manner in which lawyers protect themselves and their profession was well illustrated the other day when Mr. Justice Street, acting most likely on suggestions from Osgoode Hall, refused to allow a foreign counsel to appear in a case in court. Some of the gentlemen who thus protect their own profession would not hesitate a moment about calling a minister from the United States and putting him in the best pulpit in Canada.

IT is devoutly to be hoped that the Board of Knox College will not send to the Assembly the name of any proposed successor to the late Prof. Thompson, without knowing something reasonably definite about the probability of his acceptance. To hang the matter up for a year and then be in no better position than at present, might prove an unfortunate procedure for the college. If possible the coming man should be elected in June, released from his charge at once, if a pastor, and given ample time to prepare for his work.

WE publish this week a lengthy contrbution from the Rev. E. Scott, editor of the *Presbyterian Record*, with reference to the new *Dayspring*, the mission ship for the use of the Presbyterian Mission in the New Hebrides, for which the Rev. Dr. Paton, the veteran missionary, collected a large amount of money in Canada and Great Britain. We do so because we are certain that Dr. Paton himself would wish that all the facts connected with this undertaking should be fully known to the Christian public. So far as the letter of Mr. Scott appears to call Dr. Paton's judgment in the matter in question or the action of the Victorian Assembly we would ask our readers to suspend their judgment, which must be for some weeks, until the facts can also be presented from the point of view of Dr. Paton or that of the Victorian Assembly which has sanctioned the building of a new mission vessel.

THROUGH the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Reid we are enabled to state that when the books of the Church were closed for the year the various funds stood as follows:

Manitoba College	$ 2 538 61
Knox College	5 220 11
Assembly Fund	3 680 92
Widow's and Orphan's	6 527 21
" " (Minister's Rates)	2 559 78
Aged and Infirm Minister's	8 067 21
" " (Minister's Rates)	2 752 11
Augmentation	25 636 05
Home Mission Fund	71 691 95
Foreign Mission Fund	100 646 36
	$ 229 120 11

DR. CAMPBELL, of Ottawa, was no doubt indulging in a little joke when he said—if he did say—that the Toronto ministers would nominate one of themselves as a successor to the late Professor Thompson. As a matter of fact Toronto has never sent many professors to Knox College. Dr. Burns and Dr. Gregg were the only Toronto men that ever got professorships in the institution during the half century of its existence. Principal Caven came from St. Mary's; Dr. McLaren, from Ottawa; Prof. Thompson, from Hensall; Principal Willis, from Glasgow; Prof. Young, from Hamilton; Dr. Inglis, from Hamilton; Mr. Gale, from Hamilton; Prof. Esson, from Montreal; and Prof. Rintoul from Streetsville. The Doctor's joke was further spoiled by the fact that the Toronto men, instead of nominating one of themselves, went far afield and nominated Dr. Stalker, of Glasgow. It would therefore seem as if the worthy Doctor is not always successful when he tries to brighten the proceedings of Presbytery with a touch of humor. Well, he ought to get credit for trying. That kind of work is much needed; and he may do better next time!

THE semi-annual missionary meeting of the Young People's Presbyterian Union was held on Monday evening, May 6th, in West Church, Denison Avenue. The great majority of the Presbyterian Churches of the city and suburbs sent strong representations from their Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor, the result being a very interesting and profitable gathering of young Presbyterians. From 6.30 to 8 o'clock the Christian Endeavorers of West Church welcomed the visitors from the different societies in the church parlors. Then a most pleasant hour was spent in social intercourse and interchange of greetings. At 8 o'clock the chair was taken by Rev. W. G. Wallace, president of the union. The opening exercise were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Turnbull, pastor of West Church. Rev. J. Neil, of Westminster Church, delivered an able address on the subject, "Why Christian Endeavorers in their missionary efforts should be loyal to the recognized schemes of the Church." Dr. Fraser Smith, of Honan, China, in his interesting half hours' talk very forcibly laid before the gathering the responsibility resting upon every follower of Christ, in reference to the great missionary cause. The speaker urgently asked the young Presbyterians of Toronto that in their prayers they will not forget their missionaries in the foreign field. The music for the evening was generously supplied by the choir of West Church. Several of the ministers of the city attended the meeting in company with their young people.

HOME MISSIONS AND AUGMENTATION GRANTS.

THE Rev. D. J. Macdonnell writes to say what it will be a source of satisfaction to all our readers to learn "that the grants to Augmented charges have been paid *in full*, revenue and expenditure being so nearly equalised that this could be done without question. It is still more gratifying to know that this result is to be ascribed rather to a general increase in liberality in the support of this scheme than to special contributions, welcome as these have been. Congregational contributions are between $2,000 and $3,000 in advance of what they were the preceding year. In eighteen Presbyteries out of twenty-six in Ontario and Quebec there has been in the aggregate decided increase, and there has also been some advance in the West, in spite of difficulties and drawbacks in various quarters."

It will also be glad news to know, from Dr. Cochrane, "that, through the generous response made by many of the leading congregations of the Church, in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and other places, the claims due missionaries for mission work up to 31st March have now been paid *in full*. The amount received during the past few weeks was such, as to warrant him, and Dr. Reid, the Church Agent, to do so. This is a cause for great gratification to all interested."

In this state of things as to these two important funds, the whole church may well rejoice, especially so after the discouraging outlook of a few weeks ago. Let it not be forgotten how much of this happy outcome is due to the liberality of the parent Churches in Scotland and Ireland. Could anything be more becoming than that all our ministers, on the first, or some very early Sabbath, should make mention of these things in their congregations and make it a subject of special thanksgiving to God that He has put it into the hearts of our brethren in the old Home-Land, and into the hearts of so many of our congregations in our own Dominion, to offer so willingly after this sort, and that what threatened to be a reproach to our Church, and a cause of bitter disappointment and even of suffering to many of our most worthy, hard-working missionaries has been taken away. "Now therefore our God we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name."

A STREAM OF POLLUTION.

WHOEVER keeps his eyes open in passing along our streets must have observed an increasing tendency to very great license in the character of the play-bills with which the walls are placarded. This evil is very insidious, encroaching little by little upon what is lawful, until, counting upon no interference, it becomes bold and unblushing iniquity. Attitudes and semi-nude figures are exhibited, indecent and rank with evil suggestions. They are both an indication of low morals, and in the most rapid and effective way they teach them to the whole community. They lower the public tone and standard of morality. Private citizens find a difficulty in knowing at what point and just how to interfere. Those officials charged with the care of public morals in this respect, should therefore be the more vigilant, and if they were to err rather on the side of severity than laxity, it would be in the public interest, and they might reckon upon the support of all good citizens. When play-bills, which are to be exposed in the public streets, go to such a length as some which might recently be seen, we may be sure that the handbills to be distributed in connection therewith will go a good deal further, and that, when these have secured a congenial audience, wickedness will run riot. A play-bill of such a filthy, lewd performance has fallen into our hands, and is the occasion of our writing thus. The company it emanated from performed in this city, and in several other towns and cities of the west, distributing, wherever it went, the same loathsome, moral filth.

The very first word in it was a piece of inane vulgarity, "Je-ru-sa-lem!" Below was next a suggestion of fastness and shady female character, "Paris Gaiety Girls." And so it goes through thirty or forty lines, increasing in indecency and winding up with: "No Ladies Admitted." This like a stream of pollution has been going through the country, stimulating prurient curiosity and inciting and ministering to, when enacted on the stage, gross and libidinous passion. We put the public on their guard againt all such dangerous, vicious, strolling companies, and if the public wish it, they can stop them, and by calling for improved legislation increase the speed and thoroughness with which they can be stamped out. We take steps against dangerous, cantagious, physical diseases; here is something more fatally, vitally dangerous, and we should see that it does not spread and taint our youth with a moral leprosy. At Hamilton a mass meeting has just been held at which several resolutions were passed condemning immoral theatrical exhibitions and certain "sporting" practices. In announcing the meeting the Rev. Dr. Lyle said: "It was to defend pure amusement and sport from the breath of the unclean and the brute. At the committee meeting held some days ago revelations had been made that were revolting. The condition of things was shameful and scandalous."