

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1878.

## THANKSGIVING DAY.

**W**EDNESDAY, 4th December, having been appointed by the Government as a day of thanksgiving, it is expected and hoped that all the congregations of the Presbyterian Church will unite in suitable exercises.

## REV. DR. MATHEWS, OF NEW YORK.

**T**HE congregation of Charles St. Church, Toronto, had the pleasure, on Sunday last, of listening to the excellent pulpit ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Mathews, of New York, a gentleman deservedly held in high esteem, not only in Presbyterian circles, but wherever his high character for sterling modest worth, and his exceptional abilities as a minister and man of letters has made him known. In many respects he is a typical minister—of no fireworks brilliancy in the pulpit, but of a high order of intellect; a well endowed, well-equipped, solid, earnest man, of whom every one speaks well, and whom many love to call friend. For some years he has been laboring in New York, having come there from Stranraer, Scotland, in 1868, where he left a most attached congregation, who saw with regret their pastor leave the old land for a charge in the new world. While in Scotland, Dr. Mathews actively concerned himself in Presbyterian ecclesiastical and literary work. He is at present corresponding secretary in America for the Evangelical Alliance, and is to be the editor, representing the Presbyterian Church of this side the Atlantic, of the new magazine, "The Catholic Presbyterian," to be issued with the beginning of the year, as the outcome of the recent Pan-Presbyterian convention in Scotland. Like most men, however, who have reached mature years before leaving the mother-land, Dr. Matthews is known to have a pardonable weakness for the old flag, and has a loyal place in his heart for old-world ways and the manners and customs of the mother-land. If the Charles Street congregation have not already arranged for a new pastor, perhaps Dr. Mathews could be attracted here. If so, few more substantial and important acquisitions could be made to the Presbyterian circles and pulpit of Toronto, than the reverend gentleman of whom we write.

## MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATIONS.

**I**T has given us much pleasure to observe that a Ministerial Association has just been formed in this city. The Society is composed of ministers of all the evangelical branches of the Church of Christ. In one of the articles of the Constitution, which has been adopted, the basis of the Evangelical Alliance is accepted as that of the Association. This clearly defines those who may be members, but a nomination and election by ballot is deemed necessary for all future additions that may be made to the Society. There is thus a safeguard provided for the admission of none but ministers in good and regular standing.

Why should Toronto have been so long without an Association of this kind? is a question which naturally arises in view of the fact that in nearly all our towns and cities such clerical societies have existed for years. There are special reasons for this, which are peculiar to city life. In a large community there is really more of isolation than in smaller ones. The duties of ministers are so multifarious, denominational and congregational claims are so pressing, the work as a whole is so absorbing, that our clergymen find there is little time left for social and brotherly intercourse. The question of Ministerial Association is apt to be put off to the very last moment; but when it is once mooted, and the way made clear for the establishment of such a society, it is found that every one hails the movement with extreme satisfaction, and there is a feeling of regret that such a society was not formed long ago. It is better late than never, and we recognize in the care with which this Ministerial Association has drawn up its constitution an evidence of the likelihood of its being a permanent institution in our midst.

The most obvious advantage of such a Society is, that it brings our ministers into the most friendly relations. The very fact of there being such an association shows to the people that there is a true union of Christians underlying their divisions and diversities. The public delight to see their ministers occupying the same platform, and living together in the spirit of Christian fellowship. This has a reflex influence upon the community at large. They no longer set themselves in open antagonism, because of their denominational differences. The congregations feel they are not occupying separate and distinct ground, but are engaged in one great common cause. That prepares the way for Christian fellowship on a large scale. Even the enemies of religion are unconsciously affected by the spectacle of Christians dwelling together in unity. The Church is bound to be truly aggressive when the various regiments are marshalled under the banner of their great Captain.

Our ministerial brethren have doubtless immediate and personal ends in view in forming themselves into a common society. They will be able to advise one another upon many points of professional interest. They can then act in concert in any great movement, such as temperance. They can stimulate one another in their important task of studying the Scriptures for the benefit of the people. On all these grounds we hope that this Association will have every success in its work.

## THE MARQUIS AND THE PRINCESS

**O**N Sabbath last information was given from a number of pulpits of the safe arrival of our new Governor and his amiable consort. The voyage was a trying one, the "Sarmatian" having met with severe gales which swept her decks from stem to stern. The Princess suffered considerably from seasickness, but the dangers of the voyage are all forgotten in presence of the right royal welcome that has been given to the illustrious pair. Every pulpit in the land was made the vehicle of earnest supplications to the Throne of Grace for the Divine blessing upon their excellencies.

The Dominion of Canada is at one in the estimate of the honor conferred by the Queen in sending one of her daughters to these shores. Next to the presence of Her Majesty, that of her accomplished daughter is regarded with extreme delight. There is only one desire, and that is to do honor through her daughter and son-in-law to the Sovereign herself. Much has been accomplished for the maintenance of the most friendly relations between the mother-country and her Canadian colony, by the appointment of the Marquis of Lorne to the Governor-Generalship. It would have been difficult for any one of the same rank as Lord Dufferin to have followed him in an office which he adorned with a noble bearing and lofty character, and for which he was so admirably adapted in every possible way. But the Marquis comes to us with very many special advantages. His wife being the Queen's daughter marks her out from all others. He will fit into a groove of his own through this very circumstance. His consort, by her high rank and many excellencies of character, gives the new governor a distinctive position. But besides all this, the Marquis represents a noble house, and a no less illustrious parentage. The royal blood of Scotland flows in his veins. He is possessed of an excellent character and of marked literary ability, and cannot fail to exercise a valuable influence upon the young men of the country.

It gives us pleasure to express our gratification at the safe arrival of the new Governor and his partner in life. We pray that God may bless their reign. We trust they will be long spared amongst us, and that when they leave our shores they will carry with them the gratitude of the nation for the good influence which they shall have wrought by their lives; and we are sure we express a well-grounded belief, when we say that their Highnesses will find in this, the land of their adoption, much that will tend to their own comfort, and even to their moral and spiritual growth and well-being.

## TO PROBATIONERS.

**A**LL changes affecting the Roll of Probationers, such as the adding or withdrawing of names, should be reported to the Convener of the Committee on Distribution, the Rev. Robert Torrance, Guelph, at as early a day as convenient. Probationers are requested to furnish him with the Post Office address, so that he may send them directly the scheme of distribution for the ensuing quarter as soon as printed. The committee will meet (D.V.) on Monday, the 23rd of December.