

British American Presbyterian

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT TORONTO, CANADA.

TERMS: \$2 a year, in advance. Postage, by mail, \$1.00 per year, payable at the office of delivery.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR

British American Presbyterian

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1873.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

Now is the time to subscribe for the PRESBYTERIAN. We shall mail to all who now send in \$2 a copy of the PRESBYTERIAN from this time to the end of 1874.

OUR GENERAL AGENT

The Rev. A. Milne, M.A., has, we regret to say, been compelled to sever his connection with the PRESBYTERIAN. The changeable and very often inclement weather which he had to encounter in prosecuting his labours, especially at this season of the year, was too much for a delicate constitution, and he could no longer continue the work.

OUR CANVASS.

The Rev. Mr. Milne, in resigning his position as General Agent for this Journal, says: "My idea is that the circulation could be greatly increased if the minister of the congregation would appoint a local agent. In that way the country congregations could be worked up, and that is where your greatest increase must come from."

In view of Mr. Milne's experience, would it not be well for our ministers to aid us in securing for the PRESBYTERIAN a more extended circulation by appointing a suitable person in each congregation to act as agent. Some have already done so with the best results. In several places clubs have been started; in other localities ministers have canvassed for 40 or 60 subscribers to secure a Communion Service, as a premium, and in some instances, Sabbath-Schools have increased their Libraries by sending twenty, thirty, or forty names of new subscribers.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The rumour went some short time ago that the Emperor of Germany was so ill that he could not survive for any length of time. The old man has, however, apparently recovered. His death would favour greatly the progress of Liberalism in Germany.

The war on the West Coast of Africa progresses slowly. We rather fear the British Government has in hand a more difficult matter than was reckoned upon. The native allies are altogether worthless, and the General has not sufficient troops to advance. In the meantime the deadly coast climate may tell with terrible effect upon the unaccustomed Europeans. The last accounts mentioned that General Wolseley had been suffering from fever, but had recovered. Let us hope the whole difficulty will be settled soon and satisfactorily.

A dreadful famine is threatened by drought in spite of all that has been done by Government to provide against such things by irrigation, and thus always securing a crop, we have every now and then an Indian famine, which seems to say that much more still requires to be done.

Marshal Bazaine has been found guilty of treason to France, and was sentenced to death. This sentence has been commuted to twenty years' imprisonment, with degradation from his rank. Upon the whole, the evidence seems to show that no other finding or sentence was possible.

The excitement in the States over the seizure of the Virginius has entirely cooled down. Indeed the whole thing is settled, and no one now dreams of war, however much a certain class of fire-eating politicians may bluster. The people of the United States have in general no strong predilection for war.

There is a large amount of comparative destitution in Toronto and other places at the present time. Business is dull, and employers of labour are reducing their operations as far as possible. This, with large numbers coming from the States, on account of the hard times there, will make the winter a trying one for a much larger class than usual.

Mr. Disraeli has been causing a good deal of talk in Britain by his appearance in Glasgow on the occasion of his being installed as Lord Rector of the University of that city. However much Mr. D. may be admired, yet there is a ring of insincerity about all his utterances, which is far from being attractive. No doubt he is a man of very great ability, but withal, he has in his whole bearing a large amount of the political charlatan.

The election of Mr. Thomas Moss for West Toronto has been an exciting and significant incident of the past week. Old party ties in Canada are evidently breaking up, and things are on the eve of a "new departure." Yet this "new departure" can, in the nature of things, amount to very little more than simply managing public affairs with honesty and prudence, the best of all "departures."

THE QUESTION OF UNION.

We hope that all the Presbyteries, Sessions, and congregations of the contracting Presbyterian churches will see to having the question of Union freely and fully endorsed in connection with the Basis sent down by the Supreme Courts for their consideration. The opponents of Union affirm that there are large numbers hostile to its consummation on the present basis. Let this be made manifest by the utterances and votes in the several Church Courts and congregations. Surely, in such a case, none will allow judgment to go by default. Let them speak out now, or be for ever silent. On the other hand, the friends of Union affirm that there are very few parties hostile, not many more lukewarm, while the overwhelming majority are not only willing but anxious that the Union should be consummated at the earliest possible date. Let them also show that what they profess is in accordance with fact, by a full and indisputable vote being taken and given in every Presbytery and Session throughout the whole of Canada. The zeal for Union must not be what could be desired, if it shall be found that while some give returns in favor and some against, a very considerable number have not taken the trouble either to discuss or vote upon the subject at all. Should this be actually found to be the case, we frankly acknowledge that all the non-voters cannot be taken as favorable to the proposed movement; and that it would be inexpedient and unsafe to proceed with a matter so important, when encumbered with a formidable dead-weight of indifference. To overcome the difficulties in the way, and make the proposed Union a decided blessing to the people, and a gain to the cause of Christ, there must be decided, if not enthusiastic zeal for it on the part of the overwhelming majority of all concerned. Indifference in such a case is tantamount to hostility. Silence is not to be construed into consent, but rather into its opposite.

On dit that the Rev. Robt. Irvine, D.D., will be called from Calvin Church, St. John, N.B.

The stipend of the Rev. James Breckenridge, of Streetsville, was recently raised to \$1,000.

In Mr. Kennedy's letter of two weeks ago, he is made to say: "Preaching alone can never make a religious people. Mr. K. wrote 'intelligent' instead of 'religious'."

When will the Dean of Canterbury cease shocking the Ritualists? Before he went home, he preached in the chapel of Yale College, President Porter and Dr. Woolsey conducting the introductory exercises. The Dean wore no robes of any kind, but preached in an ordinary English clerical coat.

THE AUSTRALIAN BASIS.

In our issue of the 6th inst., we gave the Australian Basis, and in our last a letter from Rev. W. Bennett, of Springfield, on the subject. From these sources we learn that the Free Church in 1858 "entertained a lively hope that a United Church would speedily be raised up... on such a basis as that which has been adopted in the negotiations of the Free Synod of 'Victoria' and that in 1869, in accordance with that action, 'the Assembly declined to recognize Mr. Miller and these 'Brethren as the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria in ecclesiastical fellowship with the Free Church of Scotland.'"

Mr. B. thus comments on the above facts: "We see from the foregoing that the Free Church of Scotland has unanimously recognized a Union on a basis in which no distinct article on the Headship is found."

We cannot concur in this view. Has Mr. Bennett overlooked the fact, that so far from having no distinct article on the Headship, that Basis adopts as one of the "Standards and Formularies" of the United Church, a thorough and full exposition and assertion of that doctrine, in the Second Book of Discipline? We are of opinion that if that Book were put into the Basis at present before the Churches in Canada as one of our Standards, all differences on the question of the Headship would be at an end. We cannot allow ourselves to think of discontents separating from either of the negotiating Churches, or appealing for recognition to the Mother Churches, in case of Union being accomplished, and still hope that efforts being made to secure harmony and preserve unity will be successful.

YOUNG CANADA.

A new party in Canadian politics has been putting in an appearance. This movement, when looked somewhat closely into, is simply an attempt to realize Goldwin Smith's idea of altogether putting an end to political parties and having all to think of the country's interests, and less of their party's advancement, than, it is alleged, has been the case. A rather uproarious meeting of those in favour of this idea was held a short time ago in the Agricultural Hall, Toronto. The speakers showed that they were neither wise nor eloquent. If they mean that they are anxious for the good of Canada, in what respect are they better than others, seeing all say the same thing? If they mean any thing like Canadian Know Nothingism they are even more foolish than their worst enemies believed them to be. If they are restless young men that are seeking Government situations, or such as are anxious to keep themselves before the public, then we can understand their movement, but are far from admiring their wisdom. Mr. Goldwin Smith has managed to say a number of very foolish things on the subject of non-partyism, and has succeeded in saying them remarkably well. His disciples have improved upon the folly of his utterances, but they are very far, indeed, from improving upon the manner in which that folly has found embodiment and voice.

Book Notices.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE FOR 1874.—The fact is becoming more generally recognized every year that Little's Living Age affords the best and, all things considered, the cheapest means of keeping well informed in the most valuable current literature; a literature that embraces the productions of the best writers in science, fiction, poetry, history, biography, politics, theology, philosophy, criticism and art. A list of some of the distinguished authors represented in its pages will be found by reference to the prospectus of the magazine published elsewhere in our columns, and an unequalled array of names it is. The new series, which was begun Jan. 1, 1873, already embraces serial and short stories by eminent French, German, Russian, and English novelists; and during the ensuing year, as heretofore, besides the choicest fiction by the leading foreign authors, the usual unequalled amount will be given of the ablest essays and reviews, the best poems, the finest sketches of travel and discovery, and the most valuable historical, biographical, scientific and political information from the pens of the foremost living authors. The extra inducements to subscribers for the ensuing year are worth noticing. The amount of the best current literature of the world, thus offered, certainly cannot otherwise be obtained so economically. The highest critical authorities pronounce The Living Age the "best of all eclectics," presenting, as it does, with freshness and thoroughness what is essential to American readers—a great and indispensable literature. In the multiplicity of quarterlies, monthlies, and weeklies, all of which it represents with a satisfying completeness not elsewhere attempted, it has become almost a necessity to every person or family of intelligence and taste, and especially so to those who must limit the number of their periodicals. The prospectus should not be overlooked by our readers in making their selections of periodicals for the new year.

Ministers and Churches.

The Presbytery of Paris has nominated the Rev. W. S. McPherson, M.A., of Stratford, for the Moderatorship of next General Assembly.

The Rev. J. B. Mair, M.A., of Galt, has been appointed by the Kirk Synod a delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, which meets in St. Louis early next summer.

Knox Church, Dundas, was badly injured by the recent severe storm, and the congregation, instead of repairing the damaged structure, will erect a larger building than the present one, with a basement for lectures and Sunday school.

The Galt Reformer says:—A meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, was held after service on Sunday, at which resolutions were passed in favor of union with the Canada Presbyterian Church. There was one dissentient.

The Rev. A. B. Simpson, of Knox Church, Hamilton, who has accepted a call from Louisville, Ky., was the recipient of an address from the Ladies' Association of his Church, accompanied by a gold watch and locket. Mrs. Simpson was also presented with a beautiful pearl and emerald ring.

At a congregational meeting held last Wednesday in Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, it was decided to purchase a splendid organ. A committee was appointed to take immediate steps in this matter. Over six thousand dollars, (\$6,000) is already subscribed.

We learn from the Rev. Mr. Cochran, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, that the Rev. James Robertson, of Murrik, Ont., has accepted the appointment, for 6 months, to Knox Church, Winnipeg. We congratulate the friends in Manitoba upon such a valuable accession to the Presbyterian ministers in that Province.

We understand that on the night of Wednesday, 10th Dec. cur., the Presbyterian manse at Camlachie was taken possession of by a large party of young people belonging to the congregation there, and during the evening a short address was read to the minister's wife, and a handsome purse containing \$48.00 was placed in her hand, as a token of esteem and affection for her personally, and as a co-worker with her husband in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. It is but right further to notice the fact that Mr. Scott's south congregation, in a very generous manner, and with expressions of the most cordial attachment and esteem for him, presented him with the result of a "thank-offering" which they collected on the late Thanksgiving day, amounting to a very considerable sum. These things indicate a very happy state of things, and must be very cheering and encouraging to Mr. Scott as pastor of such a people.

The Rev. Mr. Fraser, of Barrie, has been lecturing at Orillia, on "Reminiscences of an Old Church trip, in aid of the Presbyterian Church Fund in that town. Rev. Mr. Gray, occupied the chair. The Packet says:—"The lecture was full of love for Scotland, mingled with the refrain, 'There is no place like (Canada) home.' There was also a strong undercurrent of that genuine wit for which the Reverend gentleman is noted, hereabouts at least. It may be noticed as a sign of the times, that at almost every place where he stayed in the old country, he put up at Temperance hotels, and appears to have been equally as well cared for as at the best of those where intoxicating liquors form part of the stock-in-trade. His mention of what the woman told him of the work the Good Templars are doing in Scotland was encouraging to those who hope and labour for the overthrow of the drink evil."

The annual meeting of the C. P. congregation, Aucasier, was held last Thursday. The finances were reported to be in a more favourable condition than in any previous year. The drain on the resources of the people during the year, made by the building of a new church and the purchase of a manse, prevented so much being contributed to the general funds of the Church as may have been contributed formerly, but it is hoped that in a short time more will be able to be done for the various collections throughout the year. These unusual expenses did not, however, lessen the liberality of the people towards their minister, as it was unanimously agreed at the meeting to add a hundred dollars to his salary. This is only another of the many tokens of their kindness and appreciation which he has received during the past year, and it would be well if many congregations would in this matter follow their example.—Cox.

The number of ships belonging to the British Navy actually at sea is about 200. These are divided into eleven squadrons, independently of vessels placed on special service. The number of ships laid up in the dock yards and reserves of England at the present time, besides the above, is given at 6,000, 400 and 600.

Surprise Party and Presentation.

A number of the members of the Rev. Mr. Torrance's congregation, along with a few invited friends, made up a surprise party on Tuesday evening and took possession of his house. Very soon the ladies, who came provided with all the creature comforts, had a most tempting table, and the company, whose appetites had been sharpened by the keen frosty air, did ample justice to the sumptuous repast. This evening, preparations were made for presenting to Mrs. Torrance a very elegant and costly silver tea-set, which the ladies of the congregation had been instrumental in getting up, and which was to be presented as an evidence of the regard entertained for her by those connected with the congregation over which her respected husband has so long held the pastoral oversight. After the articles had been arranged on the table, Mr. D. Savage read the following address:

DEAR MRS. TORRANCE: It is with feelings of very great pleasure that we have assembled here this evening, on behalf of the congregation of which your husband is the esteemed pastor, and you an honored member, to present you with this address, expressive of our kind regard for you, and with the accompanying gift, which we hope you will accept as a small token of that regard. Although debarred, in some measure, by household cares and the duties of hospitality, from engaging very actively in congregational work, your influence has not been the less for good that it has been of that quiet, unobtrusive kind which, exercised more by example than precept, sinks deeper into the heart. In evidence of that influence and of the respect we entertain towards you, we are here to-night—recalling many happy hours spent here before—looking forward to much pleasant intercourse in the future—and cherishing the hope that when all our meetings here are over, we shall assemble yet again in our Father's house above. That God may spare you long in usefulness, to guide your family, to encourage your husband in his pious labors, and to adorn the G. spell of the Saviour by your conduct and conversation, is the fervent prayer of the donors of this token of esteem.

ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION. Guelph, 20th Nov., 1873.

Mr. John Ludlaw, in the name of the ladies, made the presentation, after which Mr. Torrance made the following reply:

MR. SAVAGE, AND DEAR FRIENDS: In the name of Mrs. Torrance I thank you most heartily for the valuable and beautiful gifts you have been pleased to present, and which, as the address you have read states, I take to be an expression of the esteem you entertain for her. You have devised liberal things, and in carrying out your purpose, you have been liberally supported by the friends to whom you have applied, for this magnificent tea-service must represent considerable money value. On this account alone Mrs. Torrance must value it highly, but her valuation of it must be immeasurably enhanced—and may I join my name with hers in this statement—by the consideration that it is a token of your regard for her, and of your desire for her welfare. Accept our united thanks, too, for the address with which this gift is accompanied, and believe us, both will be carefully preserved and handed down as an heirloom in the family, so that in years to come our children will be reminded of the kind hearts and liberal hands to which we are indebted for this token of respect and affection. Permit me to say that we have in this a proof of what determination and effort can accomplish. May the determination and effort of each one of you be directed to the working out of your personal salvation and the glorifying of God by the salvation of others. So engaged, your labor will not be in vain now; and in the Great Day each of you will hear the voice of the Author and Finisher of Faith say:—"Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord." That you here present, that kind friends who heartily sympathize with you in this movement, and who cannot be present this evening, and that all belonging to the congregation may be fitted for a crown of joy and rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus, is the fervent prayer of both Mrs. Torrance and myself. Again allow me to thank you most heartily.

Short speeches were then made by Prof. McCandless, Messrs. D. McCaug, Ferguson, and Innes, expressive of the pleasure they felt in being present on such an interesting occasion, and bearing testimony to the worth of Mr. and Mrs. Torrance, and the esteem in which they are held not only by those belonging to the First Congregation of the C. P. Church in Guelph, but by the community at large.

The tea set is one of the most elegant, as regards pattern, we have seen for a long time. It is of American manufacture, and was procured by Mr. D. Savage. The set consists of tea urn, coffee pot, two tea-pots, sugar bowl, slop bowl, and cream jug, and each of these are tastefully chased, frosted and burnished. On the tea urn is the following inscription, which was very neatly engraved by Mr. Oldham, of Guelph:—"Presented to Mrs. Torrance by the members of the First Congregation of the Canada Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Nov. 20th, 1873."

The rest of the evening was most pleasantly spent, social intercourse and music being the chief features of enjoyment, and at a seasonable hour the party broke up, bearing with them happy memories of the pleasing event which brought them together.—Guelph Mercury.

[The above should have appeared two weeks ago but was mislaid.—E. B. A. P.]

It is a significant fact that the representative of the English Church to the recent council of All-Gatholics at Cologne was the Puseyite Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln. His address, as is well known, was not well received by the assembly, and a Bonn Professor, in accounting for the fact, stated that it was not because the Bishop's speech was not too Protestant, but because it was not Protestant enough. "We go farther," continued he, "than the Vatican Church."