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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

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WHAT the church needs first and needs most is a genuine revival of vital godliness. This may seem a very elementary truth; but elementary truths are the most important.

WE regret, on account of press of matter at the last moment, to have to hold over full notices of the meeting of the Young People's Presbyterian Union and of the Toronto Presbyterian Council. These will appear in our next.

SOME of the British and American religious journals are urging their readers to realize that the best and only real cure for the ills that exist in the Church is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Would that we in Canada could come to the same conclusion.

THERE is much force in the statement made the other day by a Dominion Cabinet minister that though the price of wheat is low the price of many other thing is equally low. The purchasing power of a bushel of wheat is as great as it ever was. The colleges and mission work of the Church are not suffering as much from depression in business as from lack of spiritual life in the Church. A revival of religion is needed more than a revival in business.

ONE of the political parties in Canada often complains because the man who points out the evils in the State is accused of "running down the country." Be that as it may it is a sad fact that the man who tries to show the need of a revival in the Church is sure to be charged with running down the Church. He is held to be an enemy because he states the honest truth. The truth will soon show itself. Indeed it is showing itself now. The depleted treasuries of the mission funds and of some of the colleges are telling the tale in a way that cannot be misunderstood. Mending machinery and talking about money does not go to the roots. In an unendowed church the money will soon stop coming in and the machinery will soon stop running if spiritual life is on the decline. The worst feature of the case is that individuals and congregations and Presbyteries that need revival most are always and everywhere the ones that least feel their need.

BOODLERS AND BLACKMAILERS.

A GOOD deal has of late been said, and a good deal of astonishment expressed, about the recent revelations of aldermanic wrong-doing in our good and great city of Toronto. It has been found that the dwellers in the Queen City have no particular reason for assuming the Pharisee's attitude, or for adopting any or all of the Pharisee's prayer. On the contrary sackcloth and ashes might rather be in demand, and the Publican's attitude as well as his petition be thought perfectly in order and highly appropriate. It has long been a marvel how certain Toronto aldermen lived, and how they managed not only to exist, but apparently to fare sumptuously without any visible means of livelihood, except what might be connected with their City Hall doings, and these were understood to be all gone about from a sense of duty and a legitimate desire for honour. The marvel is now explained. The mystery is a mystery no more. The citizens of Toronto have been bought and sold by some of their own representatives, and they are naturally indignant, though there is no particular reason for their being astonished. Every creature after his kind, and if

Toronto citizens choose to elect the base, the mercenary and the time-serving, to do their municipal work, they must also take the consequences. For years, nay, one might say for ages, it has been the foolish affectation of those who have thought themselves the most intelligent and most respectable of many a community to hold in holy horror the remotest idea of their going into any kind of politics whether municipal or of a higher grade. They have thus left the field open to, perhaps, a lower, but certainly a more active and a more practical class of workers who knew a thing or two, and could act accordingly. This much denounced "boodling," let us never forget, is not a thing of yesterday, nor are the sinners in the Toronto City Hall sinners above all the sinners on the continent. When the stone is first lifted the "vermin" beneath are specially rapid in their movements. But they have all the same been as busy before, if not more so. Not only have "respectable citizens" affected almost to feel insulted by the very suggestion of their going in for municipal honours, they in many cases take pleasure, perhaps pride, in saying that they have for years never taken so much interest in such things as to go even the length of casting a vote. With such a state of feeling, what is to be expected but just what Toronto sees to-day? The "respectables" stand aloof and the "rogues" have their innings. The former plead that for them to go into public life, even of a municipal kind, means loss in business, loss of home comfort, and even, possibly, loss of reputation. One good, worthy man some years ago in our city, made himself, if not ridiculous, at least notable by declaring that his wife would not allow him to be an alderman as it would lower the tone of his piety. All this, of course, is marrow to the bones of the "other fellows," who can the more easily go in and win. They frequent the taverns and "square" their helpers; they treat and harangue the thirsty crowds; they go in for some popular fad, and can even be pious and patriotic for the nonce. In due time they are in, and it would be strange, indeed, if they could not *recoup* themselves some way. If a franchise is to be voted, a contract to be closed, or some deal of civic property to be brought to a happy conclusion, they are sure to be there, even as the kites find out the carcass. And so the world has seen "Tweed's" gigantic "steals," and heard his sneering defiance: "What are you going to do about it?" And once and again the great, lazy, easy-going, sleepy public has awakened from its repose, as it did in Tweed's case, and has run this, that and the other boodler down. But it has soon dropped over again, and another brood, or the old one, has soon been at the same tricks. Hadn't Toronto "a boy" twenty years ago and more? and wasn't there "nothing" for him if certain plans were carried out? Wonder if she has ever been without a "white headed operator" of some kind? People cried out about the barefaced thievery of Senecal; and the man with "the brass dogs" and the beggar's wallet achieved a far from wholesome reputation.

After all was not the disgrace in such cases, not in the character of the transaction, but in being found out? It is not too much to say that in many instances the "boy" comes in for his share and that share a good one. Sometimes the share is called a "per centage" for trouble. Sometimes it takes the shape of a present at Christmas. Diamond cuff buttons are not unknown, and that fur cape will just look lovely on your wife's shoulders. It is found to be exceedingly profitable to keep certain parties in good humor. Hence some who will read these lines come to take it for granted that they must "bleed" in order to do business. And so the Christmas presents are bought, though with a wry face and distributed with a somewhat watery smile. It is a case of bribery and stand and deliver all round.

A good many years ago a very respectable firm of coal merchants tried hard to get a city contract for their wares. Year after year they cut their prices closer and closer, but it would not do. They always failed. One year they were bound to have it; they calculated that at a certain price they would clear expenses, but have not a cent of profit. To make assurance doubly sure they cut off another quarter, leaving to themselves a loss per ton of that amount. They were willing to lose so much for the name. But, no! Another was before them. They did not know the true inwardness then. They know now. They could not play at cards and lose. They could not see a man round the corner. They could not conveniently lift a mortgage. They could

not—oh, pshaw! What could they not? They were not practical you see, and that made all the difference.

And don't let Torontonians think that their officials and awarders of contracts are sinners above all the sinners that are in Ontario. Not so by a long way. Who shall prevent one friend giving another friend a handsome token of affection? Poor Perley is not the only one, neither is Arnoldi, neither is Senecal. And the plea is always the same. The country, the city, the town, the township does not suffer. It is pure affection, and if any one pleases to spend part of his profits in a small cheque, in a few dozens of wine, a haunch of venison, or a gold watch, whose business it is? Aye whose? The Duke of Devonshire had to prosecute his butler for selling his custom to a wine firm for £300 a year. A great journalist used to protest that he knew his foreman pocketed a per centage on his paper, but he could not prove it. Just look at some people's official salaries and look at their mode of living and their bank account. There are men not a hundred miles from Toronto or Ottawa who would sooner give up their nominal salaries than their "pickings," and on their own principles they are right. Why is all this? Why can votes be bought by the hundred for a dollar or a dram a piece? Why have quasi honorable men been telegraphed: "Send me another ten thousand?" Why is this, that and the other ugly kicker squashed with a purse or a place? Why are promises and lies so abundant when an election looms in the near future? Why? Because "Mammon is, and has always been the least erected spirit that fell," and has to-day more worshippers than any god or goddess that could be named, so that there are always plenty ready to be bought like cattle in the market place; and others who think themselves honorable, but are far the worst in the deal, are ready to invest their money in the souls and consciences of their fellows, to be *recouped* of course in due time with abundant interest.

It is all well, though very funny, for one lawyer to hold up his hands in unutterable surprise at the moral obtuseness of his brother of the long robe in the witness box who could not see the evil of a very scaly transaction. But more has to be done than that before the plague is stayed, and a good many just at this present time, who are sighing and weeping for the abominations being done in the land, had better not only go into public life and drive the "scall-awags" off the field, but also sweep before their own doors, and drop some of the sharp practices of which they know in their heart of hearts they have been either practically or potentially guilty.

Just wait, for instance, till a stone or two more be lifted in connection with this Sunday car agitation business, and watch how the creatures beneath scuttle and squirm in the light of day. "Great moral reformers!" and "broad minded opponents of bigotry!" Heaven help us! What sort of a heing do these fellows really think God Almighty is? To all appearance they, and a good many others, are dogs to which no puddings can be too dirty. "Lawful calling!" "Casual advantages!" Oh, of course! "a fellow must live, you know!" We see no particular necessity for that!

THE CHURCH'S FINANCIAL SITUATION.

FOR weeks past circulars have been distributed among the churches, and communications have appeared in our columns calling attention to the very large deficits existing up to the present time in the funds of the great schemes of our Church, and in those needed for keeping up and carrying on efficiently the educational work in which our colleges are engaged. The last one sent out was from Rev. Principal King in reference to the falling off of the collections for Manitoba College at a time when, because of the summer session instituted by the mandate of the Church to meet a serious and pressing emergency, the expenses of that college have, in spite of the most careful management, been considerably increased. This followed hard upon a very pressing appeal by the Senate of Knox College sent out to ministers and sessions, of which by the kindness of a friend we have obtained a copy, setting forth the instant and increasing need of that college. The Home and Foreign Mission Funds, French Evangelization and the Jewish Mission have all in turn and at different times been brought under the Church's attention as having large deficits. Because this has been done at different times there is danger of its escap-