

# THE MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN

Vol. X.

JULY, 1890.

No. 7

Mr. and Mrs. Grant will be heartily welcomed home. For twenty years they have labored in Trinidad and their labor has not been in vain. The farewell meeting at their departure was a splendid tribute to the success of their work. Through their patient and self-denying labors the moral wilderness indeed rejoices and blossoms as the garden of the Lord.

The Scott Act has in Fredericton proved sufficient to close the rum shops. Why should this not be the case in every town where the act is in force. The temperance people of Fredericton are to be congratulated on their success, but the part of others should be not merely to congratulate, but to *go and do likewise*. The example of Fredericton should be a stimulus to temperance people in the Maritime Provinces to go forward and enforce such laws as we have. This will prepare the way for better laws and be a means of educating a public opinion, that, recognizing more and more the evil of the liquor traffic, will rest satisfied with nothing short of *prohibition*.

In this issue is given the statistical report of the Agent of the Church for the year ending May 1st, 1890. Its figures, though not figures of speech are figures that speak, and speak forcibly too, telling of the work done during the year; telling of the interest taken by the various congregations of the church in the extension and establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom at home and abroad.

With regard to these tables there are two things to be attended to.

First, that there be no blanks. This is a matter that rests largely with the ministers, and together with them, the sessions. If

the minister asks for it, he will get something, more or less, for every scheme of the church. There will be first of all, if he does his duty, his own contribution, and he will always find some who will respond to every appeal for such purposes. All may not give to all, but something will be obtained for all the schemes. It may be laid down as a proposition that cannot be contradicted, that where there are blanks in the statistical tables a responsibility rests with the minister. It is a matter about which no minister need have any hesitancy in speaking. It is not as if he were asking favour for himself. It is but enforcing commands of scripture such as:—"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak;" "Go preach the gospel to every creature;" "Give and it shall be given unto you;" and other similar commands, and himself leading the way. Be it remembered, however, that this in no way relieves elders and members of their responsibility.

A second thing that should be aimed at is not only to fill each blank, but to fill it with as large a sum as possible. The responsibility for this rests primarily upon the ministers in setting forth the needs and claims of each scheme of the church, and secondly with the people in seeing that each one does his duty as God hath prospered him.

A congregation, made up of individuals who would not buy a horse at sight, without some knowledge of his record, capacity, and character, will call a strange minister, of whom they know nothing, sometimes at sight, from hearing a sermon or two, with little inquiry into his record, and not seldom they have full leisure to reflect on the un-wisdom of such a course.